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WELCOME

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One of the joys of working for Sea Angler is discovering new things from unexpected places that will interest you, our wonderful readers. This month was just such an occasion when I was reading Arthur Van Tienen's piece on the evolution of hybrid beach rods and came across the Dutch term for fishing with hybrid, multi-tip rods. The English translation for this is sea 'feeders' or sea 'ledger' rods due to the similarity with feeder, or ledgering, rods in coarse fishing. As with most things in any sport, technological developments and trends tend to be driven by the elite competitors which then trickle down to the grass roots. Fishing is no different and it's the international competition scene which seems to have driven the trend towards lighter, multi-tip hybrid rods. With summer around the corner this has inspired me to bring you some features about this Dutch 'beach feeder' style of fishing with multi-tip hybrid rods but from the shores of the UK. Watch this space. In the meantime, you can read Arthur's feature in full starting on page 16 of this issue.

This month we focus on spring plaice fishing both on and offshore. At this time of year many anglers are targeting the tasty flatties as they move back inshore after spawning. Roger Munro provides another insight into the behaviour of your favourite species and this month uses his expertise to provide you with his top tips on how, where and when to make May the month you bag a personal best plaice session. Meanwhile, Lindsey Green shows you how light tackle tactics from afloat using his personalised Predator rig can help you bring a specimen over the side of the boat. Let's hope for some calm and settled weather for the water clarity to improve – as a sight feeding species it's one thing that will really help your plaice catches start increasing.

There's plenty of new tackle to check out this month with a great selection of products for everyone. We preview the new Daiwa 23 Legalis LT reel in First Look (page 76) while I've been using HTO's Nebula Light Boat Jigging rod and share my thoughts on it on page 81. Joe Walker reviews the Orvis Pro waders on page 84 and Liam Gunn tests a new pattern of hook from Seadra. For boat anglers Tim Macpherson looks at a selection of great new items on the market in a spring Boat Store special on page 88.

Finally, don't miss the chance to win a pair of Xtratuf deck boots in this month's competition. These non-slip ankle boots are designed and built for the rigours of fishing in the icy waters of Alaska and are from a brand that is becoming increasingly popular with sea anglers. With a retail price of £140 this is a fantastic prize for one lucky reader. Don't miss out, enter now! Details of how to are on page 90.

Until next month
David

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TACKLE FOCUS: THE NEW GENERATION HYBRID RO
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SEE PAGE 24
LURE FEVER!
HENRY GILBEY'S GUIDE TO THE 8 ULTIMATE ULTRA SHALLOW DIVERS
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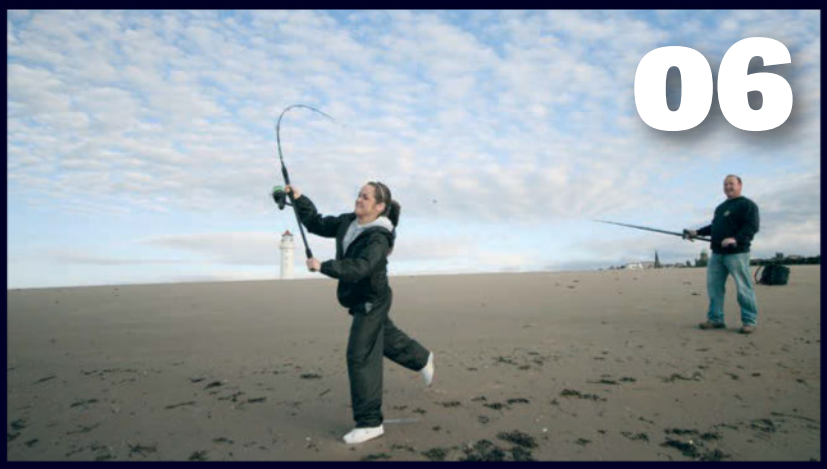
CONTENTS



SHORE ANGLER

6 TURNING BLANKS INTO BITES
Chris Kennedy explains how the 'marginal gains' of focusing on the little details can radically improve your catch rates.

10 KNOW YOUR PLAICE
Roger Munro shares his expert knowledge and top tips to help you bag-up this month on these tasty flatties.

16 EVOLUTION OF BEACHCASTERS
Arthur Van Tienen sheds light on the technological development of beach rods to today's hybrid and multi-tip rods.

26 MINI MONSTERS
Ben Bassett challenges himself to catch some of our lesser- known mini-species using some new lures on an LRF session in Plymouth.

32 TIDE TALK
This month Mike picks out the tides and tactics for early shore tope and boat-caught gurnards as they move back inshore.

34 TALES FROM THE TIDELINE
Simon Smith delves into the unique world of the devoted specimen hunter where angling is all about challenges to be conquered.

36 MISSION ACCOMPLISHED
Check out the best specimen catches by our readers including this month's shore and boat prize winners.

39 YOUNG RODS
Our celebration of the next generation of sea anglers and their great catches from around the UK and Ireland.

BOAT ANGLER

44 SCOURING THE SKERRIES
Lindsey Green bags up on Devon plaice with light tackle tactics and explains how you can use his predator rig for specimen spring flatties.

48 FISHING WITH THE FUZZ
Tim Macpherson goes out on Eastbourne-based charter boat Deep Blue for an early season species challenge with the Hampshire Police angling club.

52 SPRING SAFETY CHECK LIST
Tim Macpherson gives us a handy 10-point guide to the essential checks needed before getting out on the water.

57 DAVE'S DIARIES
Dave Lewis recalls a record-breaking trip to fish for Danish cod with legendary TV angler and Go Fishing host John Wilson.

62 SPECIES HUNTER
Dave Lewis looks into the habitat, tackle and tactics needed to tick the red gurnard off your 2024 species tally.

SEA SCHOOL

64 Q&A
Seven pages of expert answers to your fishing queries by our top team covering shore, boat, lure and LRF fishing.

72 BEST LAID PLANS
Sea angling coach Brian Pask battles the elements as he teaches a London-based Aussie how to beach fish.

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ISSUE 635 MAY 2024

ON SALE APRIL 26TH – MAY 23RD

74 PLANNING A HOLIDAY
Don't miss these top tips from a travel expert on how all the family can have fun if you are taking them along on your overseas fishing adventure.

TACKLE

76 FIRST LOOK
Check out the newest tackle and accessories on the market, including the new Daiwa 23 Legalis LT reel.

78 HITTING HOME
Find out why specimen angler Liam Gunn has no qualms in recommending Seadra's Short Shank Wide Gape Aberdeen hooks.

79 KEEP YOUR COOL
David Mitchell takes a look at Yeti's new Hopper soft Backpack Cooler.

81 HTO NEBULA
We test the amazing little Light Boat Jigging rod from HTO's Nebula range.

82 KNOT KNOWLEDGE
Don't miss our step-by-step guide to tying the super-simple wire leader to mono knot.

84 ORVIS PRO WADERS
Joe Walker weighs up the longevity versus price of expensive waders as he explains why he has faith in the Orvis Pro range.

86 STILL THE BEST
Chris Kennedy explains why, 13 years after being launched, he believes the Daiwa Millionaire 7HT MAG ST is still the best beach multiplier on the market.

88 SPRING BOAT STORE
Ahead of a new season on the water, Tim Macpherson takes a look at some of the newest boating products available to anglers.

90 WIN!
This month one lucky reader has the chance to win a pair of Xtratuf Sport Ankle Deck Boots worth an incredible £140. Don't miss out, enter today!

92 LIVING LEGENDS
This month Sea Angler contributor and multi-medal winning international angler Chris Clark tells us about his lifetime in angling.

96 PENN SEA LEAGUE
Check out the leader board, this month's top point scorers and last month's prize winner, as well as the upcoming matches in the UK's biggest and best shore match fishing league.

Words by CHRIS KENNEDY
Photography by
SEA ANGLER, GETTY IMAGES

MARGINAL GAINS:

TURNING BLANKS INTO BITES

Have you ever wondered why other anglers you are fishing alongside are always luckier than you? Chris Kennedy explains how focusing on the details will radically improve your catches and your 'luck'

So many anglers can relate to fishing next to another angler; you have cast in virtually the same place, and he goes home with more fish than you by a significant margin. When it happens, there are few things more frustrating. It's a cop-out to put it down to luck; the reasons are often much more scientific. In my time fishing, I have learned that even the smallest details can profoundly affect your catch conversion rates. But what are those details?

WATERCRAFT

It may look like he or she is cast in a similar spot to you, but are they? Is there an underwater gully, a reef, a back eddy, a mussel bed or some other fish-holding feature that means they are in the thick of the fish and you are not? Sometimes we assume beaches are the same all the way along, because they look the same from land, but often they are not. Chesil Beach in Dorset would be a great example when looking for plaice, cod or blonde rays.

DISTANCE

A few yards shorter or longer can make all of the difference. Pay attention to exactly where the anglers who are into the fish are casting in terms of range. Successful match anglers are very good at this. If you need a casting lesson or two, the cost could be a great investment. You'll have the versatility to cover more ground, and nobody will have the edge on you. Another tip is to bounce a plain lead around at the start of the session to see if you can find depressions or contours that may attract fish looking for food.

BITES

Are you missing bites while they are converting? Are they faster at striking the bites (bass and cod), or more patient with letting bites develop (rays or flatties)? This can make a big difference in terms of conversion. A great example might be sole, flounder or plaice fishing: I have one friend who sits down and pours himself a cup of tea when he identifies the bite, and he doesn't wind in until he has finished his drink. Another example might be the angler who is bass fishing and strikes very quickly versus another who may wait too long and miss almost every bass take. It is a case of horses for courses. Experience counts for a lot. Always keep an eye on your rod tips, or the fish will come and go without you even noticing. Don't be distracted.

RIGS

Are the guys who are out fishing you using a different rig? Do they have a longer or shorter hook length? Are their baits pinned on the bottom or popped up? Are they using attractors or a very stealthy rig? These variables can make a huge difference. Some species will like a bait pinned to the bottom, and others one higher in the water column. A long flowing trace may be fantastic in a moving spring tide; however, on a neap tide with little movement, a shorter hook length may be more desirable to the fish. I have seen it time and time again on the beach. Plaice might like a glitzy bling rig full of beads and spoons, and bass may be put off by this and prefer a very subtle, almost invisible rig. Cod and pollack may love bright colours. I was in the Outer Banks in the USA recently, chasing bluefish, red drum and sea mullet; some of the species would not touch a bait without an attractor. It was a steep learning curve at times.

HOOKS

The really good anglers will check their hook points after each cast. Shingle and stones will quickly dull the points of even the best hooks out there. If you're fishing with hooks that are not razor sharp, you're likely to miss many fish. Some anglers are under the illusion that because they use new hooks every session, they'll still be sharp as razors after a few casts. This is not the case. Buy an Eze Lap diamond sharpening file (fine or super fine) and sharpen it when needed. It'll give you the edge. Many fish have tough exteriors around their mouths; they're difficult to penetrate and will also blunt hooks. Always check the points. Is the type of hook you are using the best for the target species? If the hook is too big, you'll reduce hook-ups. The style of hook can also be important. In my opinion, J-hooks will always out fish circle hooks for bass. Certain hooks will present a worm bait much better than others. Circles will work best for shark species. It all needs thinking about and refining.

PRESENTATION

You've probably seen many different bait photographs in this magazine and elsewhere online. Are your hooks proud? Do they stay in place during the cast and settle that way on the seabed? If you're reeling in hooks and a predator hasn't attacked the bait, and the hooks have slipped, then you might not be using enough elastic in the right places, or you may need to consider a different rig or release system that protects the bait. I see so many anglers baiting up sloppily, either through inexperience or laziness. The most effective anglers around will always make an effort and reap the rewards of excellent bait presentation. It's also worth thinking about the dynamics of a fish swallowing the bait and hooks easily. Match your hook sizes to the bait and the fish's mouth size. People may have anecdotal experiences, but doing things well and consistently will trump all else in terms of results.

"If your mate down the beach who is gleefully out fishing everyone has better quality baits, don't be surprised if he hauls in more fish than you time and time again"

CASTING FREQUENCY

In matches, the most effective anglers may bait up every 10 minutes. They'll have rigs hanging on their tripod, ready to clip on and send out once the last one is reeled in. This is not only done so that fishing time is maximised and not wasted. It is also done because these anglers want to maximise the scent trail in the water. Fresh baits hitting the water more frequently will lead to more fish. If your hooks are coming in clean, you are not baiting up regularly enough. If your pal down the beach is baiting up more often, he'll often find more fish. If your bait is all washed out and has no scent trail left, how will the fish find it at night? Fish rely on scent trails to find food, more so than sight in many cases.

THEY WANT IT MORE

It's possible the angler next to you is more experienced and really knows what they are doing. In most domains of life, you can outwork others and achieve absolutely fantastic results. If your life depended on a fishing session, how hard would you fish? The most successful anglers don't treat their sessions as a jolly up, or a few hours to relax and drown some worms. They fish every session to win, to get new PBs and to find those specimens; they are relentless. If you head to the beach just to relax, look at the stars and to appreciate nature, that's fine. You'll be pleased to know that it is wonderful for your mental health and reducing stress levels. If you want to out fish your peers, you have to want it more than them, and to be competitive. Half measures will not give you the results you desire. Any successful participant in any sport will tell you the same thing: you have to want it more than your competitiors.

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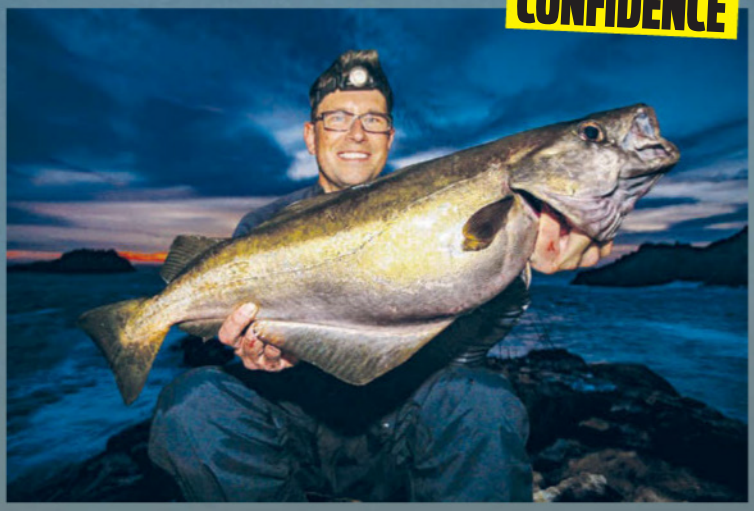
SOURCING THE BEST BAIT

It may not be a surprise to some of you that many of the most successful anglers either source their own bait, digging fresh ragworm and lugworm, or collect peeler crab, or use a cast net for sandeels. Some catch their own mackerel, herring or squid in season. Failing all of that they will use a local digger, or at least inspect frozen bait in shops carefully before buying. It turns out that fish are selective, a little like humans. They prefer fresh bait over stuff that has been refrozen three times, or even once. Yes, there might seem to be exceptions, like squid that's been refrozen or using frozen black lugworm; it'll find you fish. The reality and the rule is that freshly dug worm, freshly caught mackerel, or squid, or live peeler crab, will out fish all of the degraded baits. I've seen it happen time and time again. If your mate down the beach who is gleefully out fishing everyone has better quality baits, don't be surprised if he hauls in more fish than you time and time again.

CONFIDENCE



Have you ever noticed when you have had a great fish, that you often have successful catches in the following sessions, and you feel as if you are well and truly in the groove? Confident anglers will catch more. They have faith in what they are doing, conviction to their methods and this belief keeps them going when things are tough. One night, I fished for three or four hours at Osmington and another three hours at Chesil Beach. I fished with five other anglers at each venue in the freezing winter cold, and at Osmington I had a bass, one bite, one fish. At Chesil I had a couple of dogs. You may think that is a very modest return from a December night fishing with north winds, but what if I told you the other five anglers didn't manage a single fish at either venue? You can argue that this is just a strange outcome which defies probability, a fluke. The truth is that I was on the crest of a wave. I had great sessions leading up to this night, and I was supremely confident of finding fish, and that manifested. You need to approach every single session believing you will find fish and thinking that every single cast brings you closer to your desired capture.

Words by
ROGER MUNRO

PLUS
TOP TIPS TO HELP YOU CATCH MORE...

KNOW YOUR PLAICE!

This month **Dr Roger Munro** shares his expert knowledge and top tips to help you locate and land more spotty spring flatties

I have lost count of the number of times I have been asked over the last six decades which fish gave me the greatest pleasure and satisfaction in landing. The one that stands head and shoulders above the rest is the 3lb 14oz plaice I was lucky enough to catch whilst fishing one late summer on a rock mark at the head of the Gower Peninsula. This event was memorable because not only was it so unexpected, but it was also my first plaice and although it wasn't particularly big, it was a nice size.

At the time, I was in fact fishing for smoothhound using a cocktail of peeler crab and king ragworm mounted on a 2/0 hook. Judging by the distinct bend of my rod, the pronounced bouncing of the rod-tip and the vigorous zigzagging of the fish during the retrieve, I firmly believed that I had latched onto a smoothhound or a sizeable bass. However, when the fish finally surfaced, I initially thought it was a small ray but was delighted to discover that it was, in fact, a strikingly marked, impressively coloured, plaice.

PLOUNDER?

On several occasions prior to this I thought I had realised my long-held dream of catching a sizeable plaice but I had never really been convinced that any of the fish that I had previously caught were, indeed, unmistakably plaice. None of them had borne all the classical features which characterise a proper plaice specimen: a diamond shaped body with bright orange spots, a series of around five to seven bony bumps running across the back of the head from the eyes to the gill cover (these bumps are absent in flounders and dabs), a relatively small tail fin and fairly smooth dark brown or dark green skin across the whole body except for its white underside. I had firmly believed that these previous "false" plaice were either flounders which sometimes have brightly coloured orange spots similar to those in plaice or they were "plounders" which are relatively common plaice-flounder hybrids.

Plaice also occasionally hybridize with dab. Both the dab and the flounder can also display orange or yellow spots so this should not be relied upon for flatfish identification. By far the clinching feature which properly identifies a plaice are the bony bumps at the back of its head.

Plaice fishing in the North Sea has been pursued for centuries. The fish derives its name from the ancient Greek name platys, meaning broad. They can vary in size up to 66cm (26in) and 10lb with UK shore caught typically 1–3lb. However, the maximum recorded length is 100cm (39in) and maximum reported age is 50 years. The UK shore record is 8lb 7oz caught in 1989 near Bournemouth. Females are slightly larger than males of the same age. It lives on the sandy, muddy and gravel-covered bottoms of the European shelf at depths of less than 80m but can be found at depths of up to 200m. It is common throughout the North Sea, English Channel and the Irish Sea.

Plaice are most commonly caught by recreational anglers between March and September as they spend the colder winter months in deeper water where they spawn. The UK season for plaice kicks off in the south and west and as far north as the Scottish border around the end of February. They stay inshore until around October and then move out to deeper water.

When the sea temperature begins to warm up in the spring, plaice move back into shallower inshore water within range of the shore angler. The first plaice to arrive are

"Plaice are most commonly caught by recreational anglers between March and September as they spend the colder winter months in deeper water where they spawn"

often thin and undernourished having spent the winter in cold, deep water where their food source was quite scarce. They are therefore keen to take a bait but as summer progresses, plaice will fatten up and become more selective about the sources of food they take. At the onset of autumn, they exhibit large-scale migrations from their feeding grounds to their main spawning areas located in deeper waters in the North Sea, English Channel and Irish Sea. A study off the Icelandic coast demonstrated high site-fidelity – meaning they return to the same location year after year – of plaice towards both feeding and spawning areas. The fish were recaptured only hundreds of metres away from their original release location several years later.

Although not great long-distance swimmers, a large number of the southern North Sea plaice population migrate southward during the early winter months towards slightly warmer water which flows into the North Sea through the Strait of Dover. After spawning between January and March the spent fish return northwards to their favoured feeding grounds. There is no special uniformity of depth, temperature or salinity in the spawning areas, but they are never too distant from the coast and always in areas where water movements will carry eggs and larvae towards sandy coasts which are their nursery grounds. The larvae live in the surface layers for about six weeks, their metamorphosis then begins and within the next two weeks they become gradually converted into 'flatfish'. Their bodies flatten laterally and the fish acquire a new swimming position with their left side downwards. The skull is progressively transformed by the movement of the left eye to a new position dorsal and slightly anterior to the right eye on what now becomes the uppermost side of the body. The body increases in depth and the upper ▶

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side develops pigmentation to help achieve camouflage whilst the underside remains white. During the spring and summer months plaice are often found in estuaries and can survive quite a low salinity content of water, although not to the same extent as flounder and they will not travel up rivers in the same way that flounder do.

In Victorian times, plaice was plentiful and cheap: up to 30 million were sold each year at Billingsgate Market and it was a mainstay of the diet of London's poorest residents. Britain and Denmark are currently amongst the biggest consumers of plaice; it is the most fished flatfish species in terms of volume. The current adult biomass of plaice is approximately 40 per cent of the maximum observed during the 1960s although stocks are now slowly recovering. Holland dominates plaice fishing, but around 17 per cent of catches of European plaice are made in UK waters. Anglers should ensure that all the plaice they keep are over the minimum size (28cm / 11in) to help the survival of the species. A further complication involves the vulnerability of plaice eggs to predation – in a study involving the contents of the stomach of sprats, it was found that 91 per cent contained plaice eggs.

FEEDING HABITS

Their diet consists of brittle stars, worms, crabs and shellfish such as razorfish and mussels and they are adept at nipping the siphons off sand clams while they siphon nutrients from the water. They can be formidable predators; they will eat sandeels and have been found with sprats and gobies inside their stomachs.

Plaice primarily depend on visual cues in addition to chemical signals to locate their prey within the sediment. The burying movements adopted by plaice are like those of the sole in which several vigorous beats of the head against the sand are accompanied by a lateral wave of muscular contractions travelling back down the body and vertical movements of the marginal fins which throw up sand. Feeding activities are mainly restricted to daylight hours when they swim short distances in search for food, while maintaining contact with the seabed. During darkness, plaice mobility increases and is reflected in increased swimming activity higher within the water column. The daytime feeding pattern is also reflected by their stomach contents, with maximum fullness in the early evening, gradually emptying during

"Open surf beaches are good spots to find plaice. Sandy outcrops next to rocky areas are also good areas to target them, especially if there are shellfish beds nearby

night and a recommencement of feeding just before sunrise. Plaice frequently attack their prey from a distance and from all directions, making them a little tricky to hook.

Plaice do not come into very shallow water in the way that flounder do, and baits will usually have to be in at least a few metres of water to catch plaice. They are aggressive predators and will take most of the common sea fishing baits. Open surf beaches are good spots to find plaice. Sandy outcrops next to rocky areas are also good areas to target them, especially if there are shellfish beds nearby. Worms account for most catches, king ragworm and blow lugworm are the obvious choices, but harbour ragworm (maddies) are also an excellent plaice bait. Adding peeler crab or mussel to any worm bait can also increase catches, although anglers should make sure baits are not too big as the mouth of the plaice is small.

Like founder, plaice are inquisitive and are therefore attracted to sequins and beads on the hook-lengths. Hooking ragworm so that their tails wriggle around on the seabed is an effective tactic that can be used to catch plaice. When fishing in muddy, coloured water plaice are more aggressive, they'll give a couple of distinct rattles and the tip will pull hard over as the fish takes the bait and tries to move away. It is known to prefer moving baits such as crabs, squid and worm. ■

Plaice can hybridize with both dabs and flounders

TOP TIPS TO HELP YOU CATCH MORE PLAICE

- Beach fishing for plaice is most productive during spring tides since they tend to feed more eagerly. They particularly like a clear sea with minimum colour and good general water clarity. Estuary plaice feed more frequently during neap tides when the tidal run is less fierce.
- Most plaice are caught during daylight, although they can occasionally be caught at night.
- Beach plaice are frequently found on sand mixed with mud. They also like mussel beds at the mouths of estuaries and muddy channels where weed-covered rocks line the sides of the estuary channels. Piers can be quite productive, particularly when casting onto sand or mud.
- Surf-beach plaice like to move in with the tide; they then "sit" in the deeper gutters and depressions that are features of these beaches. They also favour burying themselves in sand at the base of shallow sandbanks and picking off food as the tide brings it to them.
- Plaice like a moving bait, so where possible, use a plain bomb and allow the tide pressure on the line to sweep your bait in a wide arc. Try "twitching" the bait towards you a few inches at a time. This is often enough to induce a take.
- Plaice typically like a combination of baits. A cocktail of peeler crab and wriggling ragworm works well. Other baits to try are mussel, cockles or razorfish tipped with slivers of squid or mackerel thinly cut to give flapping movements to entice the fish.
- Use two hook or three hook flapper rigs and include a different bait on each hook to try and tempt the plaice.
- On beaches, long-range fishing will give you your best chance of catching plaice.
- Plaice bites over sand in shallow water can be quite gentle. You may see the rod tip rattle slightly a few times. Resist the urge to strike! Plaice have small mouths – you may lose your fish by being too vigorous.
- Always use fine wired, long shanked but strong hooks. These are best suited to the way plaice feed. If you're missing bites and suspect these are plaice, then keep reducing your hook size.
- Since plaice are inquisitive fish, use coloured beads just above your hooks. White and green or black and green can be good over sand, as can blue and yellow when fishing close to mussel beds. All my plaice have been caught with alternating white, yellow and green beads used together.
- If you succeed in catching a plaice, try recasting as close as you can to the same spot. Other inquisitive plaice will often turn up. Small shoals can sometimes be found favouring precise locations.

Words by ARTHUR VAN TIENEN AND JORAN BAL
Photography by SANDER BOER, FRANK VAN DER BURG, WILLEM KWINTEN

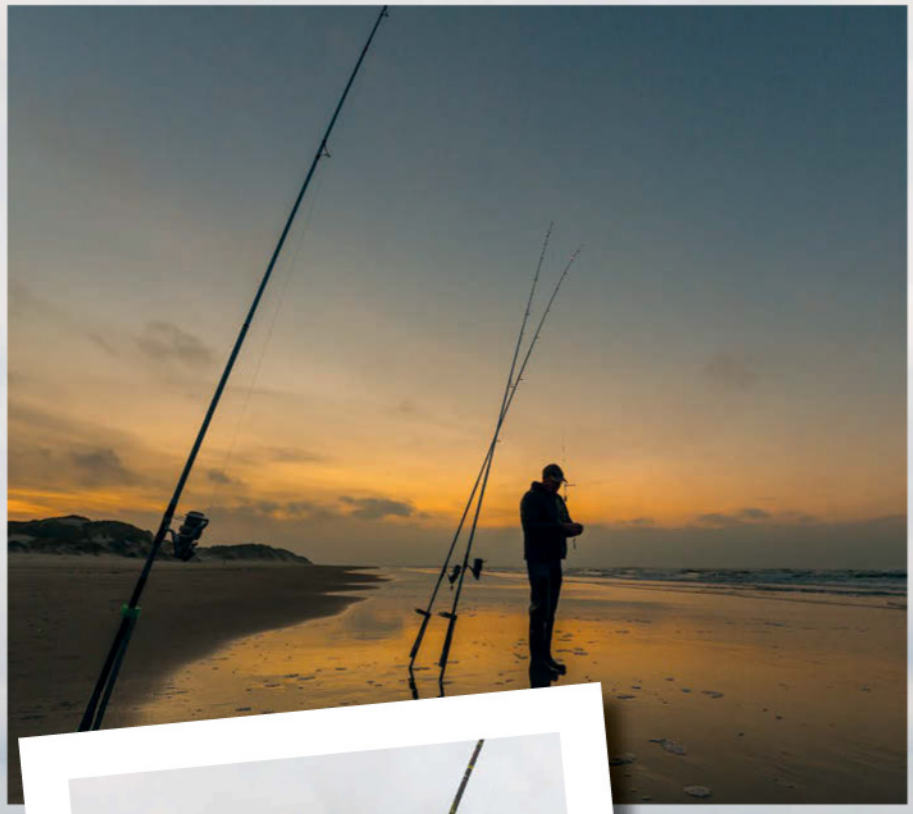
Fishing in HOLLAND
www.fishinginholland.nl

The Netherlands is a fantastic angling destination for both freshwater and saltwater anglers. The country is also very easy to reach from England. Everything an angler needs to know about fishing in the Netherlands is available (in English) on the website www.fishinginholland.nl. The website features the best fishing spots for both freshwater and saltwater, the best accommodations, lists of professional fishing guides throughout the country, and much more.

BEACH ROD EVOLUTION

Thanks to technical advances and improved materials, rods are becoming lighter and stronger. Long, stiff rods are being replaced by hybrid beach rods. Arthur Van Tienen – former Dutch national coach and FIPS-mer committee member – sheds light on this evolution

When you compare today's beach rods with those from the last decades of the last century, you can see that a huge step forward has been made. Where hollow fibreglass and full-glass rods were once the height of modern technology, nowadays carbon fibre rods manufactured with nano technology – with or without a glass tip – are standard. These high-quality rods have enormous potential and are a joy to fish with. This also has to do with the finish of the blanks. Reel Seats are made of carbon material and the titanium guides have torzite liners. These components make for super light and very finished rods. ▶



CHANGES

The development of rods is also influenced by changing conditions on the beaches. The heavy jack-of-all-trades rod has disappeared as rods specifically designed for sport fish, such as sea bass, have emerged. In combination with the arrival of new generations of fishing lines, the need for longer, stiffer rods is a thing of the past. Hybrid rods have become an integral part of today's beach fishing and these rods form the majority of makes and models now on offer. Many rod manufacturers now supply super light 3-piece 14 to 15 foot rods with a hybrid tip that can handle a wide range of casting techniques.

HYBRID RODS

Although there are still enthusiasts of 15ft to 16ft long rods, the majority of competition anglers fish with three-piece hybrid rods from 14 to 15 foot. These can be used by any beach angler, from small to large. This is partly because most hybrid rods weigh around 500 grams or even less. The maximum specified casting weight is often 250 grams, but I certainly wouldn't put that weight on the rod – it's not going to like it! In my experience the optimal casting weight for these rods is between 125 and 165 grams. Also think about the point of being able to cast a 200g (70z) weight if you can also

With the off the ground cast, you get significantly more distance when fishing with a hybrid rod

OFF THE GROUND CAST

Where the long thick backcast rods, the short tapered pendulum rods and the heavy 5 metre rods all required a specific casting technique, the modern hybrid rods are much more all-round. However, it is recommended that you master the off-the-ground cast – you will really get considerably more distance with this rod than with an overhead cast. This is due to the fact that the origin of the hybrid rods is in Spain. There you have in the Mediterranean Sea little or no tidal effect and therefore no grip lead fishing. To be able to cast weights without grips as far as possible, they use the off the ground cast. This is the reason why this rod has been adapted to this type of casting style. I saw that this works perfectly in 2021 during the World Championships in Albufeira where the Spanish teams held sway with fantastically fast 270 degree casts with 4.25 metre long rods and only 140 grams maximum casting weight.

"THE MAXIMUM CASTING WEIGHT IS OFTEN 250 GRAMS, BUT BETWEEN 125 AND 165 GRAMS IS USUALLY OPTIMAL"

handle 100g (3.5oz) perfectly well.
The latter is not only more manageable, but also provides more satisfaction and better results. The feel of what is happening underwater is better, you will have more fun and there is a greater chance that a hooked fish will actually end up on the shore.

MULTI-TIP RODS

The trend of lighter and thinner is particularly evident in the advent of light multi-tip rods which we call beach feeders, or ledgers, here in the Netherlands. These rods are specifically designed for beach fishing at shorter distances. Beach feeders are also three-piece, but usually a bit shorter (3.60 to 4.20 metres), thinner in diameter, have smaller guides and are suitable for casting weights up to a maximum of 140g. This branch of the sport is mainly a summer fishery along the Dutch coast, as I imagine it is in the UK too. The very fine rods are perfect for light fishing for schoolies, mullet, garfish, bream and flatties. It goes without saying that you should match the rest of the tackle to these lighter rods. While you can go with a 10000 size reel matched with a hybrid rod and using 18/00 to 22/00 diameter mono, you are going to want to switch to a reel in the 4000 to 5500 size, and 16/00 to 20/00 mono when using a beach feeder or multi-tip rod. In other words, the set-up must be balanced.

PRICE TAG

Beach rods of decent quality can be found from around £150 to just under £800 for the top of the range. Before purchasing, ask yourself what it is worth to you. Do you go recreational fishing up to ten times a year? If so, choose a rod from a different price range than the match angler who fishes 40 to 50 (international) matches a year at top level and wants to have state of the art rods. Keep in mind that cheaper rods are by definition made of lower quality materials – a top set of titanium eyes with a torzite lining costs between €150 and €200 euros, so you won't find them on a €250 rod. With guided eyes from market leader Fuji – recognisable by the brand name in the temples of the eye – you can't go wrong; the same applies to reel holders of that mark. Pac-bay, Seymo and Alps are also top brands when it comes to eyes and reel seats. Finally, take good care of your stuff and rinse it off after each session. The rod that is 100 per cent saltwater resistant has yet to be made. ■

TRY BEFORE YOU BUY

It's easy to get lost in the forest of beach rods that are available today. It pays to visit a specialised and well-stocked tackle shop to be informed in practice about what is for sale

"Do you have a fishing rod yet?" That's the first question that fishing shop owner Sjaak Verhage asks his customers when they come for a beach rod. "If that's the case, and it is not an old fibreglass grandfather's rod, then we are going to take this to the beach behind the store see their style and how the rod casts. You can buy an expensive rod, but if your casting technique is lacking, you won't necessarily get more distance with a blank from a higher price range."

TYPE OF FISHING

Furthermore, according to Verhage, it is important to know what exactly you have in mind with the rod. "What type of fishing do you do? Fish in deep or shallow water? Is there a lot or little current? Not every rod is suitable for everything."

In order to be able to advise his customers in the best possible way, Verhage takes every type of fishing rod from the shelves to the beach. "I use fast and slow casts to determine the optimum casting weight – simply adding up the two numbers that indicate the casting range and dividing by two doesn't work."

BIG PICTURE

Finally, Verhage points out the importance of the overall picture. "In order to fish as comfortably as possible – and to be able to cast far – all rod components must be coordinated. Therefore, choose a reel with a strong shaft, high retrieval rate speed and neat line winding. A high, well-filled spool that allows the line to run easily is also important." Forget large diameter lines – narrow gauge lines are all that's necessary: 30/00 to 26/00 nylon tapering to 50/00 so that there is no need for a leader (with no more knots in the line, the casting distance is increased)."

YETI
BUILT FOR THE WILD.

Glasgow Angling Centre
FISHING MEGASTORE
Unit 1 The Point Retail Park, 29 Saracen Street, Glasgow, G22 5HT
GLASGOW: 0141 212 8880

FISHING MEGA STORE .COM

Edinburgh Angling Centre
FISHING MEGASTORE
Unit E Granton Retail Park, West Harbour Road, Edinburgh, EH5 1PW
EDINBURGH: 0131 202 6351

PENN Squall II Star Drag Reel — SALE

Due to its innovative Live Spindle construction, the PENN Squall II Star Drag is lightweight, quick to recover, and very castable. The Squall II is more angler-friendly than ever before, thanks to PENN's patented Fast Gear Access Sideplate.

CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
PE2320	30 RHW	495yds/80lb	~~£244.99~~	£89.99

Shakespeare Agility Surf Reel

Purpose built for UK beach fishing, Shakespeare's Agility Surf range are designed to handle saltwater use, and are thoroughly tested for reliability. Features a large capacity, distance casting spool, matched with a smooth drag system.

CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
SP3392	70	20lbs/240yds	~~£67.99~~	£40.00

BEACHCASTER & SURF RODS

Best Selling Century Rods

CODE	MODEL	LEN	CASTS	PRICE
CN0181	Graphex Match Beach	13ft 6	125-175g	£555
CN0182	Graphex Supermatch LD Beachcaster	13ft	50-150g	£535
CN0183	Graphex Ultralite ST Beachcaster	13ft	50-125g	£510
CN0394	Fireblade Surf	13ft	4-6oz	£275
CN0180	Tip Tornado Beach	13ft 6	4-7oz	£560
CN0179	Tip Tornado Graphex Sport Beach	13ft 11	4-8oz	£600
CN0078	Kompressor SS Beachcaster	13ft 10	4-7oz	£499

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO SEE OUR HUGE STOCK OF CENTURY RODS!

PENN Tidal Surfcasting Rods — BEST SELLER

Tidal stands for everything you need for surfcasting: Super strong but lightweight and responsive 30T carbon blanks that are designed to have the best distance properties.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
PE2301	14ft	50-200g	3	~~£119.99~~	£110.00
PE2302	14ft	100-225g	3	~~£139.99~~	£130.00
PE2303	14ft	100-250g	3	~~£139.99~~	£130.00
PE2304	14ft	100-300g	3	~~£139.99~~	£130.00

Abu Garcia Ambassadeur CS Pro Rocket Level Wind 7000

The Ambassadeur CS Pro Rocket form Abu Garcia is an international best seller. Engineered for super castability, this superb reel also features a synchronised level wind system for even line lay.

CODE	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
PU4204	250yds/20lb	~~£169.99~~	£100.00

okuma Distance Surf Arena Fixed Spool Reel

- Graphite blade body
- Worm shaft Oscillation system
- 1 one-way roller bearing
- Cold Forged Aluminium Distance spool
- Flex aluminium line clip
- Bail lock system
- Holds 210m of 20lb mono

CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
SV20018	DSA-60	0.40mm/210m	~~£59.99~~	£50.00

Mitchell Suprema 3.0 Surf & Beach Rods — SALE

The ultra light-weight and slim blank have a fast parabolic action that is combined with a very sensitive tip.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
PU10110	13ft 9	100g	3	~~£154.99~~	£80.00
PU10111	13ft 9	130g	3	~~£159.99~~	£85.00
PU10113	13ft 9	250g	3	~~£174.99~~	£95.00
PU10114	14ft 9	30-110g	3+3	~~£154.99~~	£80.00
PU10115	14ft 9	40-130g	3+3	~~£174.99~~	£95.00

Ironcraft Guerilla Beachcaster Rods

A well priced continental rod that packs a punch at a price everybody can afford. Ideally suited to fishing clean beaches when targeting species such as flounder, whiting, plaice and dogfish.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	PRICE
TX7658	13ft 6	150-225g	2	~~£93.99~~	£92.99
TX7656	13ft 7	100-200g	3	~~£93.99~~	£91.99
TX7657	14ft 7	100-200g	3	~~£98.99~~	£97.99

PENN Warfare Level Wind Multiplier

Engineered to be an extremely versatile all-round reel at an affordable price. It features a lightweight graphite frame and sideplates with aluminium frame rings for improved rigidity to prevent frame-flex.

CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
PE1684	LH 20	315yds/20lb	~~£94.99~~	£90.00

SONIK SKS Black Surf Reel

The Sonik SKS8000 Surf reel is a full-sized surf reel which has been designed to meet the requirements of the UK beach angler. The spool design gives smooth long casts and the large handle helps to speed gear and fish back to the beach.

CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
SO0481	8000	220yds/20lb	~~£49.99~~	£39.99

Fisheagle Saracen Beachcaster Rods

FULL CARBON

- Designed to offer unbeatable value for money, ideal for the occasional angler or beginner.
- Suitable for general beach fishing but also capable of fishing in mixed ground and from offshore structures.

CODE	LENGTH	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
RE0549	12ft	4-8oz	3	~~£69.99~~	£49.99
RE0550	13ft	4-8oz	3	~~£79.99~~	£54.99
RE0551	14ft	4-8oz	3	~~£84.99~~	£59.99

Leeda ICON Beach Rods

FXD Elite
These rods are made from Torayco® carbon with Fuki K Guides and a Fuji reel seat.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
LD14565	14ft	100-200g	3	~~£349.99~~	£170.00
LD14566	15ft	100-200g	3	~~£359.99~~	£180.00

M-Sport Power Made with high modulus carbon.

LD15424	13ft 10	5-7oz	2	~~£199.99~~	£150.00

Daiwa Sealine Slosh Multipliers

The SL20SH and SL30SH are two top drawer performers boasting powerful, high speed gearing. Nicknamed 'Slosh' by their many fans around UK coastlines, they are excellent for all shore work, uptiding and a variety of down tide boat fishing.

CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
DW0631	SL20SH	250m/20lbs	~~£135.00~~	£100.00
DW0633	SL30SH	300m/20lbs	~~£135.00~~	£100.00

PENN Spinfisher VI Long Cast Spinning Reels — SALE

A powerful and high-performance workhorse that has a super sealed IPX5 body and spool design for pivotal saltwater protection and long-lasting use.

CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	PRICE
PE1901	5500	240m/0.30mm	~~£204.99~~	£135.00
PE1902	6500	325m/0.33mm	~~£219.99~~	£145.00

Ron Thompson Axellerator Beach Rod

The Axellerator Beach is crafted from IM7 carbo for a truly superb action perfect for extreme distance casting

- Fuji Silicon Carbide Rings
- Highest quality Japanese shrink wrap

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
SV2719	13ft 6	4-8oz	2	~~£169.99~~	£130.00

Ironcraft Banzai Beach Series Rods

The BZ4 is a light beach or estuary continental style rod while the BZ5 is an excellent all-rounder continental rod.

CODE	MODEL	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
TX9030	BZ4	14ft 9	3-5oz	3	~~£144.99~~	£100.00
TX9032	BZ5	14ft 9	4-6oz	3	~~£149.99~~	£100.00

Fisheagle Fighter 300L Multiplier with Mono

Very strong and reliable ball bearing Level-wind Multiplier.

- 3.8:1 Gear Ratio
- Pre-Loaded with monc
- Easily adjustable star drag
- Non-slip handle
- Right hand wind

CODE	CAPACITY	RRP	PRICE
RE0839	20lb/310yds	~~£34.99~~	£24.99

Ironcraft Virtuoso Air Surf Reels

Made from high strength lightweight graphite. An upgrade from the original Virtuoso is the screw in CNC machined handle.

CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	PRICE
TX7660	5000	250m/0.21mm	~~£104.99~~	£60.00
TX7659	8000	200m/0.35mm	~~£119.99~~	£70.00

BASS & SPINNING RODS

Savage Gear SGS2 Offshore Sea Bass Rods

Become a master of catching sea bass offshore with rods designed specifically to do just that, by casting or vertically. Despite being excellent for targeting offshore sea bass, they are also perfect for catching other salty predators.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
SV23958	7ft	5-18g	2	~~£99.99~~	£40.00
SV23959	7ft	7-28g	2	~~£99.99~~	£40.00
SV23960	7ft	15-45g	2	~~£99.99~~	£40.00

BOAT RODS

PENN Squadron II Boat Rods

This series features a more modern sporting blank with an action designed to achieve high performance in both fishing and casting. Suitable for both spinning and bottom fishing, guldes are braid friendly.

CODE	MODEL	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
PE1821	Boat	7ft	20-30lb	2	~~£69.99~~	£60
PE1823	Braid	8ft 3	20-30lb	1+1	~~£79.99~~	£60

PENN Spinfisher VI Spinning Reels — SALE

The PENN Spinfisher VI features IPX5 sealing so whether it gets hit with a wave, or you let it ride in the spray all the way home, you don't have to worry about saltwater getting into the gearbox or drag system. Our HT-100 drag washers are housed in a fully sealed spool to give the stopping power needed for big saltwater fish.

- IPX5 Sealed body and spool design
- CNC Gear™ technology
- HT-100™ carbon fiber drag washers
- 5+1 sealed stainless steel ball bearing system
- Full Metal Body

CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	PRICE
PE1898	4500	390m/0.25mm	~~£159.99~~	£105.00
PE1899	5500	390m/0.28mm	~~£169.99~~	£115.00
PE1900	6500	355m/0.33mm	~~£184.99~~	£125.00
PE1914	7500	450m/0.36mm	~~£194.99~~	£130.00
PE1917	10500	395m/0.56mm	~~£239.99~~	£200.00

PENN Wrath Spinning Reels

Featuring a lightweight and corrosion-resistant graphite body with a machined and anodized aluminium spool.

CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	PRICE
PE1974	2000	160yds/20lb	~~£54.99~~	£40.00
PE1975	3000	130yds/30lb	~~£54.99~~	£40.00
PE1976	4000	185yds/30lb	~~£59.99~~	£55.00
PE1977	5000	240yds/40lb	~~£59.99~~	£55.00
PE1978	6000	335yds/50lb	~~£69.99~~	£50.00

Savage Gear Gear SGS6 Long Casting Rod

Cast huge distances with incredible precision no matter what the conditions.

- Fuji stainless steel SiC K guides
- Fuji reel seat
- Delicate yet powerful blanks

SALE

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
SV23912	9ft 6	Fast 10-35g	2	~~£309.99~~	£99.99

Shakespeare Agility 2 Boat Salt Rod Series — SALE

These rods feature lightweight, fast actioned, yet powerful blanks designed to maximise bite detection.

CODE	MODEL	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
SP3940	Boat	7ft	20lb	2	~~£51.99~~	£40.00
SP3941	Boat	7ft	30lb	2	~~£51.99~~	£40.00
SP3945	Boat	7ft	20-30lb	4	~~£76.99~~	£35.00
SP3944	Braid	8ft	20-30lb	2	~~£66.99~~	£40.00

Abu Garcia Max X Bass and Shore Spinning Combo — SALE

The MAX X is a light, modern, strong and reliable spinning combo. It's the ideal choice for the starting angler who is looking for decent quality!
Comes with a 10ft Max X Rod and Max X 40 Reel.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	PRICE
PU11135	10ft	15-40g	2	~~£129.99~~	£60.00

Shakespeare Ugly Stik GX2 Spinning Rod

The next generation of the lauded Ugly Stik range, the Ugly Stik GX2 range of spinning rods have a lighter feel with the same toughness that makes Ugly Stik the workhorse of anglers everywhere. The graphite and fibreglass construction create super strong yet sensitive rods with improved balance.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	PRICE
PU5075	10ft	20-80g	2	~~£69.99~~	£40.00

Shimano STC Travel Rods

This unique 4-6 sectioned rod is one Shimano's most versatile travel Rods around. Excellent value for money and quality made.

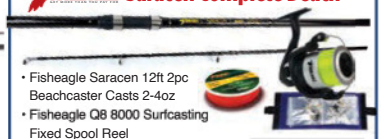
CODE	MODEL	LEN	CASTS	PCS	PRICE
SU14273	Boat	7ft 2	30-50lb	4	£150.00
SU12363	Spin	8ft 2	14-40g	6	£170.00
SU12364	Spin	8ft 2	50-100g	6	£180.00

FISHEAGLE Saracen Mackerel Outfit

- Fisheagle Saracen Mackerel Rod 11ft 1-3oz 2pc
- Fisheagle Q8 Surf Reel loaded with Mono
- Fisheagle Rig Wallet and 10 Assorted Bait Rigs

U117FSH
RRP: £89.97
£39.99

FISHEAGLE Saracen Complete Beach



- Fisheagle Saracen 12ft 2pc Beachcaster Casts 2-4oz
- Fisheagle Q8 8000 Surfcasting Fixed Spool Reel
- Reel is Loaded with with 20lb Mono
- Fisheagle Rig Wallet with 10 Popular assorted Ready Tied Bait Beach rigs
- Spool of 40lb Powerstorm Vi Vis Shockleader

RE0721
RRP: £98.96
£49.99

FISHEAGLE Expert MKII 2pc Flotation Suit

The latest edition of the best selling Expert 2-piece Flotation suit is state of the art and has been produced and conforms to ISO 12402-5 & 12402-6 regulations. This update has all the functions and quality that you are used too, but with a modern touch and extra safety features. Bib and Brace trousers that are certified as a 50 Newton Buoyancy Aid having been specially designed to elevate the top half of your body when in water.

The suit features a reflective tape for night safety, a stitched-in belt with ITW Nexus buckle and a CE 394 whistle. Made from a light, wind and water-resistant fabric, they provide comfort for any inclement trips day or night as well as safety in the water.

RRP £139.99
OUR PRICE
£109.99

CODE	SIZE
RE0852	S
RE0853	M
RE0854	L
RE0855	XL
RE0856	2XL
RE0857	3XL
RE0858	4XL

BEST SELLER

Shakespeare Catch More Fish Spin Kit

The Catch More Fish 2 Spin Kit is ideal for beginners and offers great value for money. The kit includes a 9ft rod with a pre-spooled reel and a tackle box full of terminal items to get you started.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	PRICE
SP4151	9ft	40-80g	2	~~£54.99~~	£40.00

Shakespeare Firebird Boat Multiplier Rod & Reel + Lucas Pirk Combo

Firebird Combos are perfect for anglers looking for a reliable product without breaking the bank. They display strong and attractive Firebird artwork and cosmetics that appeal to anglers of all ages.

HALF PRICE

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	PRICE
SP4898	7ft	20-30lb	2	~~£69.99~~	£35.00

stillwater Super Seat Box

This superb Seat Box is sure to be a best seller. Made from high-impact polypropylene plastic; very tough, durable and water resistant.
H380 x W360 x D220mm.

YW0115
OUR PRICE
£29.99

IRONCLAD Search Headlamp

A good looking headlight boasting 400 lumens of power, ideal for any night time fishing.

TX6091
RRP: £26.99
£24.99

IMAX Thermo Suit

Designed for winter wear it features a lovely warm thermal lining and is cut to allow easy movement when walking, casting and fishing.

CODE	SIZE
SV9635	M
SV9636	L
SV9637	XL
SV9638	2XL

ALL SIZES
RRP: £129.99
£89.99

stillwater Boat & Shore Polar PVC Wellington Boots & Lining

The rugged PVC construction keeps out the water, while the removable fleece liner keeps the heat in.

ALL SIZES
RRP: £29.99
£19.99

CODE	SIZE
RE0511	7
RE0512	8
RE0513	9
RE0515	10/10.5
RE0516	11
RE0517	12

SAVAGE GEAR Savage Minnow Weedless

With a lively kicking action both on the drop and retrieve, baitfish imitations don't get much more realistic than this.
1 per pack.

COLOUR	10CM 16G	12.5CM 28G
Khaki	SV23637	SV23641
White Pearl Silver	SV23638	SV23642
Blue Pearl Silver	SV23639	SV23643
Lemon Back	SV23640	SV23644
OUR PRICE	£7.25	£9.50

WESTIN Salty Lures

FULL RANGE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE!

This bestselling Westin lure has it all.

COLOUR	7CM / 12G	9CM / 18G	11CM / 26G
Canned Sardine	WN2086	WN2104	WN2122
GFR	WN2088	WN2106	WN2124
Dotted Sardine	WN2089	WN2107	WN2125
Diamond Thief	WN2090	WN2108	WN2126
Pattegrisen	WN2093	WN2111	WN2129
3D Yellow Ayu	WN3177	WN3184	WN3191
3D Brown Headlight	WN3178	WN3185	WN3192
3D Sparkling Herring	WN3179	WN3186	WN3193
UV Hottie Pearl	WN3180	WN3187	WN3194
PRICE	£5.99	£6.50	£6.99

DAM IMAX Storm Safe Beach Shelter V2

The Imax Storm Safe has the now classic domed beach shelter shape which is a design proven to protect you from wind and rain.
- 220 x 150 x 150cm.
- 145cm transport length.

SV21703
RRP: £129.99
£70

DAM PackDown & Surf Tripods

Top choice for portable lightweight rod support, compact when collapsed and rock solid once in position!

CODE	MODEL	COL.	LEN	RRP	NOW
SV17772	PackDown	Silver	6ft	~~£59.99~~	£40.00
DM2878	Surf	Blue	6ft	~~£69.99~~	£40.00

FISHEAGLE Hunt Lures

Features a sandeel style body and are designed so that they can be cast at a distance.

COLOUR	28G	43G
Green/Silver	TA2529	TA2534
Fluoro/Green/Yellow	TA2530	TA2535
Fluoro/Red/Black	TA2531	TA2536
Black Pearl	TA2532	TA2537
Silver Pearl	TA2533	TA2538
RRP	~~£4.99~~	~~£5.50~~
NOW	£2.99	£3.50

RON THOMPSON Mackerel Jig

Superb Sea Fishing lures for Shore, Pier or Boat Fishing, excellent results for Mackerel, Pollock and Bass.

COLOUR	21G	28G	40G	60G
Silver/Blue	SV22057	SV22058	SV22059	SV22060
Silver	SV22061	SV22062	SV22063	SV22064
Silver/Green	SV22065	SV22066	SV22067	SV22068
Red/Black	SV22069	SV22070	SV22071	SV22072
RRP	~~£1.50~~	~~£1.60~~	~~£1.70~~	~~£1.99~~
NOW	£1.25	£1.35	£1.45	£1.75

SAVAGE GEAR Sandeel V2 2+1 Pack

NEW

This super realistic sandeel imitation will fool even the wariest of predator fish.

COLOUR	12CM 22G	14CM 33G	15.5CM 46G	17.5CM 65G
Green Silver	SV23661	SV23667	SV23673	SV23679
Khaki	SV23662	SV23668	SV23674	SV23680
White Pearl Silver	SV23663	SV23669	SV23675	SV23681
Blue Pearl Silver	SV23664	SV23670	SV23676	SV23682
Lemon Back	SV23665	SV23671	SV23677	SV23683
Pink Pearl Silver	SV23666	SV23672	SV23678	SV23684
PRICE	£8.99	£9.99	£10.99	£11.99

EVEN MORE V2 LURES AVAILABLE ONLINE!

SAVAGE GEAR 3D Line Thru Sandeel Lures

A 3D Scan of a real sandeel, providing the perfect body shape for this great line-thru hard lure!

SALE

CODE	LEN	WGT	COLOUR	RRP	NOW
SV20548	85mm	11g	Eel Pout	~~£8.99~~	£3.00
SV20549	85mm	11g	Red Black Pout	~~£8.99~~	£3.00
SV20550	85mm	11g	Gold Pout	~~£8.99~~	£3.00
SV20551	85mm	11g	YG Pout	~~£8.99~~	£3.00
SV26488	150mm	27g	Black Silver Green Pearl	~~£14.99~~	£4.00
SV26489	150mm	27g	Brown Ghost	~~£14.99~~	£4.00

SAVAGE GEAR Gravity Stick Lures

6 per pack.

A slim-profile, long-casting range of soft lures with a high specific gravity. All the lures have a rattle slot in the main body plus an insert weight slot in the tail area to add even more distance to your cast if required.

COLOUR	PULSETAIL	PADDLETAIL	PINTAIL
White	SV22091	SV22095	SV22087
Wakasagi	SV22092	SV22096	SV22088
Khaki	SV22093	SV22097	SV22089
Green Silver UV	SV22094	SV22098	SV22090
High-Vis	SV23757	-	SV23761
Ghost Mixed	SV23758	-	SV23762
PRICE	£3.50	£3.50	£3.50

SAVAGE GEAR 3D Line Thru Sandeel Lures

A 3D Scan of a real sandeel, has provided the perfect details and body shape for this great line-thru hard lure!

COLOUR	8.5CM 11G	11CM 15G	12.5CM 19G	15CM 27G
Sandeel	SV19558	SV19016	SV17836	SV17842
Sandeel Ghost	SV19559	SV19017	SV17837	SV17843
Motoroil UV	SV19560	SV19019	SV17841	SV17847
Black & Red UV	SV19561	SV19020	SV19353	-
Black N Yellow Glow	SV19562	SV19354	SV19350	SV19352
Black Ghost	-	-	SV17839	SV17845
Gold Pout	SV20550	-	SV20560	-
Matt White Tobis	SV21453	SV19355	SV19349	SV19351
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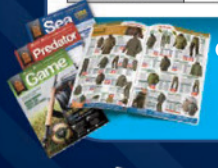

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WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY BEN BASSETT

MINI MONSTERS OF THE HARBOUR

Chasing micro-species on LRF tactics might not be everyone's cup of tea, but for Ben Bassett the challenge of catching our most weird and wonderful lesser-known species beats sitting behind a beachcaster on a cold night waiting for a bite

Lure fishing in late winter and early spring can be some of the most challenging angling you can find in the UK. Even in LRF (light rock fishing) where we target almost anything, the pickings can be slim when the sea is at its coldest. During these times, it is easy to stick to what we know, using our usual artificial baits like Berkley Gulp or Marukyu Isome. But there is a thrill in the challenge of trying new lures, in new ways, but you have to pick your moments carefully; and on one late February evening, I picked the right moment to encounter some of the stranger harbour inhabitants.

SUTTON HARBOUR

Making a mockery of last summer's drought, this winter has been a deluge of rain. The two rivers that border Plymouth have been swollen with thick brown water for weeks. This seemingly unending torrent decreases the salinity in the Plymouth Sound, lowers the temperature and destroys the visibility. It is the time of year when I can almost understand the thought process of sitting behind big bait rods in the hope of a bite, almost! Thankfully, there are small oases away from the sludge, which can be taken advantage of by the LRF angler; Sutton Harbour is one of those.

With a lock gate and only small inlets of freshwater running into it, Sutton is the mark of choice for the Lerfer in winter, but it can be frustrating. The harbour is a busy place and, especially during the day, the water can appear completely barren and lifeless. In the colder months, daytime fishing can be almost pointless, so on that day, I planned an after work session in darkness with Rich Salter and Maurice Mitchinton.

Maurice and I arrived to find Rich already feeling pretty happy with himself, having caught a connemara clingfish from Elphinstone Car Park. Clingfish are often overlooked and rarely caught by any other anglers beside Lerfers. The connemara is our largest species but still doesn't grow larger than 8cm. It is a properly weird looking thing, looking like a green-red flattened tadpole, but with a large mouth and strong, sticky suction disc underneath it. It is an active predator of small invertebrates and fish fry, using its perfectly evolved body to hide in tight crevices and under rocks. To catch one at Elphinstone was a real achievement, and despite its underwhelming size to most anglers, we were both quite envious of Rich.

With the sun setting behind us, we made our way to the harbour. Rich was planning to micro-fish for the tiny, but rather beautiful, two-spotted goby. Maurice would be using Cheb and Dropshot rigs to try and boost his Big Lerf Winter League tally, but I had other plans. As two thirds of The Big Lerf, me and Rich had recently imported some brand new soft plastics from Greek LRF company, Nerdfishing. I had been eager to try them out and, despite my better judgement, I made a commitment to use them only that evening. My reasoning being, if I could catch on them in February, then I could catch on them at any time of the year.

I had three lure shapes and three colours of each, the Nerdfishing Worthy Eel, Crab and Larvae in Natural Glow, Pink Glow and Clear Glow. After a quick charge up with the headtorch of them all in their packets, it was obvious the Clear Glow was the most luminous. In murky, cold saltwater, glowing lures can make a huge difference in your catch rate. So, onto a one gram Tungsten jighead went the Worthy Eel in Clear Glow, a nice slimline lure with a highly active curltail, and with a flick it was sent into the murky depths of the harbour. ▶

The biggest UK blenny, the tompot, stalking shallows at night

SUPER-LIGHT SET-UP

My setup of choice was the Majorcraft Aji-Do rod rated to three grams casting weight, paired with a Shimano Vanford in five hundred size, loaded with one-and-a-half pound breaking strain polyester (Ester) line. This ridiculously light combo is my favourite for winter harbour fishing. It means I can fish the tiniest, lightest lures and get the most fun out of any larger fish that hit them. The Ester line is crucial due to its quality of sinking quickly through the water column, meaning you don't get the parachute effect that you experience from braided line.

As expected, the first few casts found zero interest, but as I used my headtorch to search the walls for fish above the weed line, I saw movement. I quickly dropped my lure down to the small fish, which I could see was a common blenny – otherwise known as a shanny. The tail of the lure shimmied and twisted enticingly on the fall, the many glowing particles creating a plankton-like illumination next to the blenny. Shannies are aggressive biters and even in the depths of winter can be quite obliging, and this fish was no different. Within seconds the fish attacked and was hooked. My first species on the new lures, and the dreaded blank avoided.

The fishing wasn't exactly electric from then on, with only a few black gobies falling to the goby-master himself, Maurice. We were teased by the tiny, but beautiful, two spotted gobies that inhabit the harbour walls and their banks of seaweed. I missed a few bites from what I assumed to be their larger cousins, the rock goby, but otherwise it was very quiet. In the chilly winter air, I changed lures to the Worthy Crab, a fun little lure that was a great imitation of a tiny crustacean. As ever, I had flounder in my mind as I flung it into the black water, aiming to twitch it back along the bottom.

Cast after cast produced nothing, and I began to think that the evening might prove to be a bit of a dud. But then, in classic winter fashion, the night was lifted by the ever greedy and enthusiastic bite of a small pollack. A fish that would impress nobody, but one I was grateful for that evening. It looked quite comical with the crab hanging from its lip. The lure was swiftly removed and the pollack slipped back. Nothing remarkable, but a species boost on what was looking like a difficult evening. After more unrewarded casts, the three of us carried on with our lap of the harbour.

Back using the Worthy Eel, I studied a small section of the harbour that was only

A micro wrasse

inches deep. Here my headtorch could illuminate the bottom clearly, and gave me a good chance of finding another species. These areas can hold everything or nothing, and fish can easily be missed if you don't look hard enough. It looked to be pretty bare, save for the panicked prawns and scattering mullet fry. But then, I saw something sitting on the mud, clear as day, it was a tompot blenny. Not just any tompot blenny but quite a large one too, in blenny terms anyway. I could easily make out its striped flanks and blunt, tentacled head.

Tompots do not usually like artificial light, they usually slink away as soon as you catch them with the torch, but this fish stayed put. I flicked the lure out past the blenny, working it very slowly towards him. As I got within a few inches of it, the blenny attacked, snaffling the lure in a small puff of black silt. I didn't strike straight away, as I knew that this fish had a small mouth, full of needle like teeth, and would take a moment to chew on the soft plastic. I waited, not completely sure if it had dropped the lure or not. Then the blenny made my mind up for me by moving, I struck in hope, and luckily the hook was well placed in the mouth. Tompots can give a spirited fight, but in shallow water there could be only one winner here.

Despite having caught many, many tompots over the years, this fish felt special. I rarely get a chance to sight fish for them and just as rarely catch them on non-aqua based lures (aqua based meaning that they need to be kept in scented liquid like Gulp or Isome). It also helped that this was a particularly fine example of the species, with thick rubbery lips hiding hundreds of fine comb teeth, large red eyes and splotches of yellow, orange and brown all over the tapered body. Unlike their smaller cousins, the shanny, tompots are excellent posers and always make for great photos. After retrieving my lure the blenny was returned, and continued, almost completely unfazed, to stalk the shallows once more. I let it be and moved to the next spot. My next choice of lure would be the Worthy Larvae, which is based

Searching for beasts beneath the boats

on insect larvae but in my mind made for a pretty solid prawn imitation. I scanned the murky shallows at the back of the harbour in the hope that I could find a flounder to test my theory on. The three of us did our best to peer through the gloomy water, as a huge rat nonchalantly shuffled beside the fence behind us. There wasn't a flounder to be seen, either they weren't there or the visibility was simply too poor to find them. But the shallows are full of debris and hidden crevices, so there's always a chance of something lurking in the dark.

THE KITCHEN SINK

I set my sights on one of my favourite pieces of sunken debris in the harbour, an upturned sink. The round sink has been there for years, and is a regular shelter of black gobies, so I fancied my chances of one attacking my lure from beneath it. In the torchlight I could see what I thought was the head of one, and worked my lure towards it in a gentle hovering motion. Without hesitation the head snapped up the lure, the force reverberating straight up the polyester line and into the finely tuned carbon in my hand. I struck and instantly knew that this was no goby.

The head belonged to an eel, and one that was now twisting with all of its might to stay under the submerged sink. Fishing so light, I didn't have a huge amount of leeway, but knew if I could keep the eel's head out of the sink I had a chance. With steady leverage and a good angle, the eel was eventually free of its porcelain lair, and I now had the advantage fighting it in open water. Under torchlight I played tug of war with the snakelike creature, wondering which species I had, and if it would slip the hook? After a frantic few seconds, Rich ran the net underneath the eel and I now had the unenviable task of trying to unhook and photograph it.

Being a light lure angler, I have never caught a conger eel, despite hooking up to many; this fish was not a conger, it was a European eel, more commonly called a silver eel when caught in saltwater. The harbour is home to many of these amazing creatures, most that are resident and are more green or brown in colour. They are still not a common catch on lures though, and despite my difficulty trying to hold the little beast, I was amazed I had been so lucky to tempt it. The eel covered my gloves in thick, snotty slime, as it writhed and slipped out of my grasp. I finally managed to remove the hook and got a few, quite terrible I admit, photos. Then the slippery fish was returned to the harbour, instantly disappearing back beneath the sink I had pulled it from.

The night drew to a close and I retired to the car with slime covered hands and a smile on my face. The harbour holds many mini monsters, and on a cold February evening, I was lucky enough to meet a few of them. It's a form of angling not appreciated by everyone, but in my opinion beats sitting behind a big rod everytime. ■

The ever reliable micro pollack, snapping up the crab with little hesitation!

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TIDE MINNOW
LANCE

The Tide Minnow Lance is a long cast, sinking shallow diving minnow. Fitted with three tungsten balls and a steel ball, it delivers unrivalled casting distances, even when punching into strong headwinds ! It has a tight but stable swimming action, and sinks on pauses. This will allow you to explore different water columns, especially when the fish are holding in deeper places.

▶ **110** mm / 14 g ▶ **120** mm / 17,5 g ▶ **140** mm / 25,5 g ▶ **160** mm / 28 g

Sinking - Rattling

TIDE MINNOW
SPRAT

The Tide Minnow Sprat, unlike the Tide Minnow Lance, is a slow floating shallow minnow. It allows you to fish much more slowly, especially when fish are fussy and hitting lures on the pauses. The Tide Minnow Sprat will rise slowly during pauses. It has a characteristic rolling and wobbling action that is attractive to all predators.

▶ **100** mm / 13 g ▶ **120** mm / 19 g ▶ **140** mm / 24,5 g

Slow floating - Rattling

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Words and Photography by MIKE THRUSSELL

MAY 2024

THIS MONTH MIKE PICKS OUT THE TIDES AND TACTICS FOR EARLY SHORE TOPE AND BOAT-CAUGHT GURNARDS AS THEY MOVE BACK INSHORE

SHORE TOPE

May is a good month to target early shore tope off the deep-water rock ledges. It will be mainly pack tope to 25lb, but there's always the chance of bigger fish too.

TIDE TALK

The smaller to middle sized tides from the 13th to the 21st offer a wide window, but the rising tides between the 17th and the 20th look prime. The dropping tides from the 27th to 31st could also produce if the weather is settled with light winds. These tides offer a reduced tide flow that produces more small fish activity and a greater chance of tope being present.

Tope typically show from low water slack and for the first three hours of the new flood. The first hour being the peak period on many venues. If they show on the ebb it's often just as the ebb slows in the two hours before low water slack. The high-water period is often poor generally. Look for lobster pot boats resetting pots over low water and fish near these as the fresh pot bait scent brings the tope in.

By day, look for a tide that turns with some cloud cover evident. At night, fish tides with a low water that floods in the dark. If the wind has been in an east quarter for a few days then suddenly swings west with a new tide, this can produce a catch to remember.

TACTICS

Powerful beachcasters rated to cast 6oz with a multiplier reel holding 300-yards of 25/30lb line and backing are needed, plus an 80lb shock leader.

Fish a heavy-duty pulley rig made from 60-inches of 80lb mono with a size 2/0 swivel tied on to the end to take the hook length. Hook length can be 200lb mono but a big tope can sometimes cut through this. Experienced tope anglers prefer 14-inches of 60lb wire crimped to the swivel ending with a crimped-on size 6/0 debarbed bronzed Viking pattern hook. The bronzed hook is a built-in weak link falling out or corroding quickly should a tope be lost.

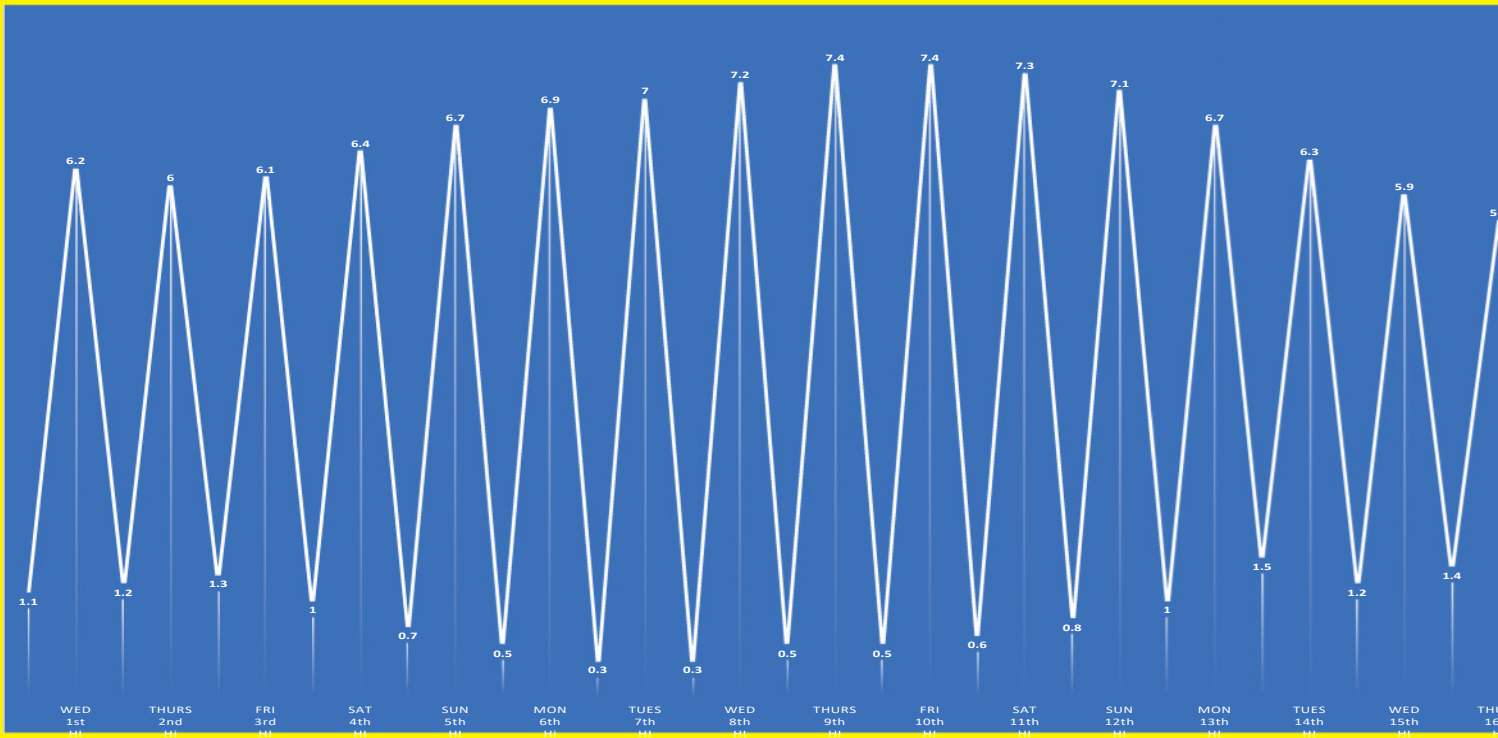
Mackerel is the most used bait, either as a fillet or body section. Better still is fresh whiting or dab, rockling, pout or poor cod. Keep baits no larger than 5-inches in length to get the tope to instantly eat the bait rather than picking it up, running with it, then dropping it as often occurs with a bigger bait.

HOTSPOTS

Rock ledges off Devon and Cornwall, West and North Wales. Wicklow beaches, Cork, Kerry, Galway, Mayo and Donegal coast of Ireland.

OTHER POSSIBLE SPECIES

Huss, rays, conger and ling.



BOAT GURNARDS

May sees a sudden increase in gurnards as they move inshore from deeper water. There are three separate species, Tub, grey and red gurnard, and generally, all three species have fairly similar habits and habitat.

TIDE TALK

Gurnards like some tide run seeking out areas where the tide flow is deflected by broken reef ground, preferring to sit on the seabed on small areas of sand and let food come to them.

On smaller tides they actively hunt too. Most fishing is done on the drift, so the smaller to medium sized tides offer the best returns reducing boat drift speed over the ground.

Tides from the 15th to the 21st are favourable but the rising tides on the18th, 19th and 20th are especially good having that little bit more power to concentrate the fish on specific ground in greater numbers. The ebbing tides of the cycle from the 28th to the 31st will also produce but tend to be less consistent.

Over slack water some gurnards, especially tubs and reds, will actively seek food so expect the odd capture, but it's during the 2nd and 3rd hour of the flood tide most fish are caught. Catches will ease back during the 4th hour and towards slack water. The same pattern is followed on the outgoing tide.

A new flood tide that coincides with incoming cloud cover, even in deep water, gives excellent conditions, especially if the sea has been calm and settled for a few days.

TACTICS

12/20 or 20/30lb class boat rods and a multiplier reel holding 300-yards of 30lb braid and backing cover all gurnard situations, adding a 30lb fluorocarbon leader twice the length of the rod to protect the braid.

A simple 2-hook rig with the lower hook positioned tight behind the lead link and the second hook placed about 34-inches above covers both the seabed and presents a bait slightly higher covering all options. Make the 20lb fluorocarbon hook lengths 15-inches in length ending with a size 2 to 1/0 Aberdeen hook. Sliding on a silver/red spoon mounted on a Clevis pin followed by three or four alternate red and yellow beads can increase bites. The Clevis pin allows the spoon to rotate freely adding flash and vibration.

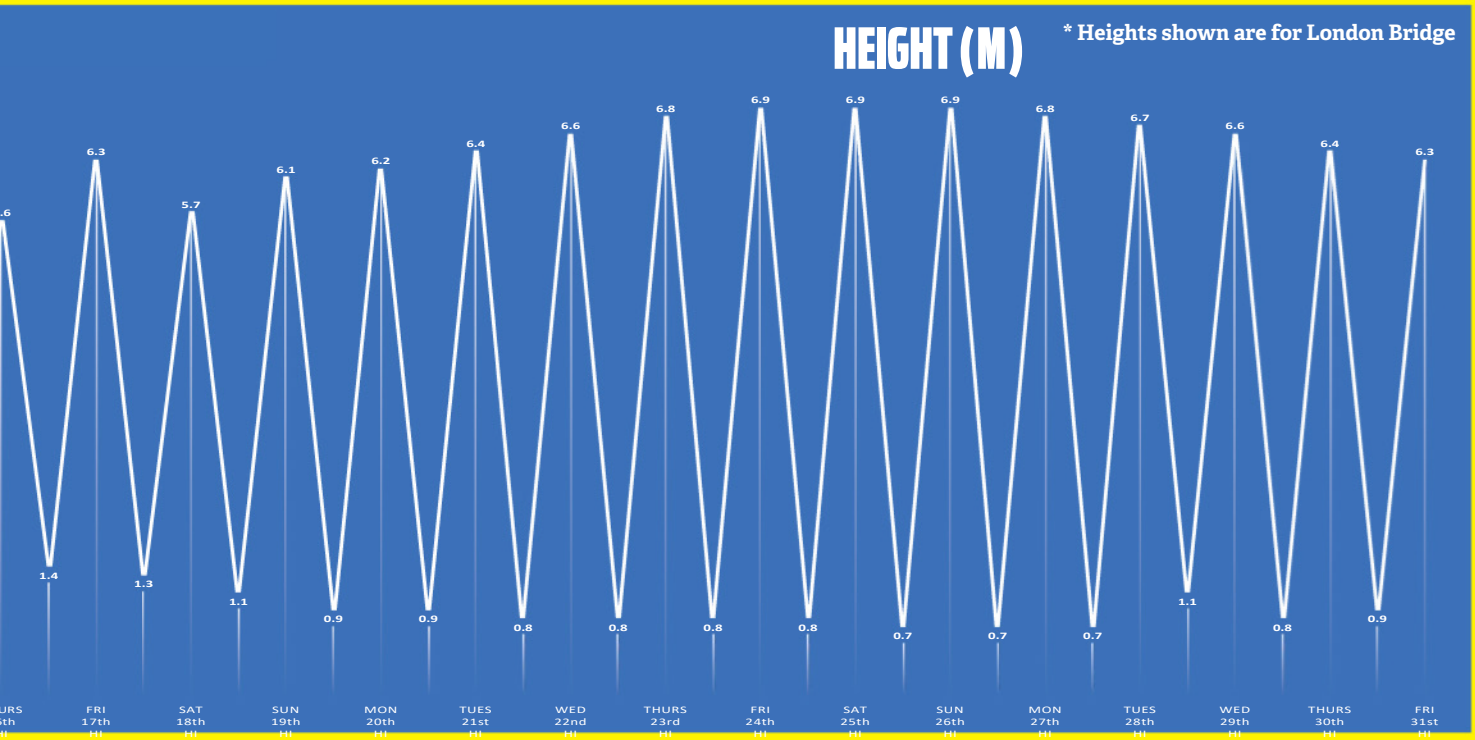
Fresh mackerel strips are the key bait, especially cut from the white belly section. Sandeel and Bluey strips also work, as will garfish strips if freshly caught.

HOTSPOTS

English Channel, Devon and Cornwall, West and North Wales. The Cork, Kerry, Galway, Mayo and Donegal coasts in Ireland, and Northern Ireland.

OTHER POSSIBLE SPECIES

Cod, haddock, whiting, flatfish, small ling wrasse and rays.



Words
SIMON SMITH

Tales from the tideline

MAKE IT A LARGE ONE

Simon Smith delves into the unique world of the devoted specimen hunter where angling is all about challenges to be conquered

If you were to ask any member of the non-angling public what it means to be an angler, they would, no doubt, picture some salmon fisher stood thigh-deep in a river. The hat full of flies, the tweed and the elbow patches all in place, is a cultural stereotype that stands firm in the public's imagination as an emblem of all that summarises the determination, the patience and the partial insanity of the angler.

The salmon is one of those high risk, high reward fishes wherein targeting it will lead to either the pinnacle of success or the depths of madness in an all-or-nothing gamble. Salmon fishing's devotees are prepared to endure long, fishless days, cumbersome, awkward tackle and any number of negative conditions, for they know that when that one striking moment comes, it is a moment that will last a lifetime.

If we stop to widen our gaze for a moment we will, however, see that the devotion of the salmon angler is less about fish than fisher, and the rest is just a matter of detail, for the salmon angler's malaise is the specialist angler's malaise, an affliction that covers a broad swathe of the angling community.

From history's earliest anglers staring down into the waters beneath them, gazing at the sinuously moving shapes, setting their jaws and deciding to capture those shapes by whatever ingenuity their minds could conjure, this evolutionary streak of determination and single-mindedness has passed down from generation to generation of angler. A challenge is a challenge, and anglers, particularly specimen anglers, love a good challenge.

Just as that salmon angler will wade a stretch of seemingly barren river over and over, so too will the bass lure angler walk miles over broken ground searching for the perfect ambush spot, the specimen carp angler will spend countless days and nights on the bankside in adverse weather and the conger eel enthusiast pore over maps and traverse cliffs to find virgin rough ground. It is a story that is echoed through time, across continents and down into the marrow of a core of anglers, a resolute focus upon chasing something that exists in the imagination, ensuring it doesn't get away, and making the material out of the immaterial. The specimen hunter carries out acts of blind faith, on a scale that few of us ever do, in pursuit of the stuff that dreams are made of. For them, when talking of catching a 'fish of a lifetime', they truly mean a lifetime, devoting every waking minute to thoughts and deeds of scale-busting fishes.

For this tiny group of anglers, the adage 'there's more to fishing than catching fish', from which so many of us take encouragement and find truth, is a lie. For them, fishing is all about catching fish. Actually, it's even more focused than that – fishing is all about catching one fish in particular.

And amongst all of this science, intuition and planning there is, remarkably, only one person. Specimen-hunting, with its hours of dedication, is not conducive to sharing, therefore the specimen hunter tends to lead a solitary life or, at best, to be part of a tiny band of like-minded souls who eschew the frivolities of social fishing and keep all their focus for whatever lies below the murky waters in front of them.

We all base our angling upon some kind of preparation – we choose a tide, a river under certain conditions, a shady spot in the corner of the lake, then factor in all those other variables, from weather to barometric pressure and even the phases of the moon, but we're always playing catch up, putting ourselves in a rough generalised space where we think the fish should be.

The specimen hunter, however, takes this to a whole new level. For the specimen hunter, angling is not just about escapism as it is for so many of us. We all escape the humdrum routine of our day-to-day lives when we take up our rods and cast the lines out into the unknown, but for the specimen hunter it is not just about escaping their own life, but about inhabiting another entirely. For them, the journey is not into the unknown, like other anglers; specimen hunters travel in the other direction, reaching for absolutes, the quantifiables and the realities from the very off, so that they are able to inhabit the existences of their quarry, think like these particular fishes, get ahead of them and even know where they will be and what they are likely to be doing at certain times.

It is all too easy to define the specimen hunter as a cynical figure, less appreciative of anything smaller than a large fish, sneering and tutting at the waste of time such fish represent – faithless, empirical and data-driven, very much an angler for the modern world. However, the specimen hunter is often the most mystical of all of us. They dream of specimen and record fish, visualise catching them, imagine the feel in the hand of those fish and focus on nothing else through consecutive long days of nothingness until, one day…

But what happens when that goal is achieved? What comes next when all that tackle accumulated, all those endless hours of learning the skills and honing the angling ability have led to that ultimate moment when the imagined becomes the real, and those long-harboured desires finally arrive, leaving the specimen hunter at the very peak of the mountain? Where is left to go?

To many, the answer will only ever be negative: downhill. Once the pinnacle is attained, the only way can ever be down – the laws of physics apply in angling as much as they do anywhere else. Yes, this is true, and even the most dedicated specimen hunter must climb down from this zenith, but not before they've had the chance to glimpse other, far horizons from those heights, to set their sights on another destination and, in starting the downward journey, take their first steps toward the next peak in their sights. ■

"The specimen hunter carries out acts of blind faith, on a scale that few of us ever do, in pursuit of the stuff that dreams are made of. For them, when talking of catching a 'fish of a lifetime', they truly mean a lifetime, devoting every waking minute to thoughts and deeds of scale-busting fishes"

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

John Booth, Devon
FISH: 13lb spurdog **BAIT:** Squid/mackerel cocktail **VENUE:** Rough ground off Plymouth **DATE:** 03/03/24

Bernie le Gallais, Guernsey
FISH: 10lb 3oz turbot **BAIT:** Garfish
VENUE: Sark sand bank **DATE:** 16/03/24

Carl England, Plymouth
FISH: 3lb 2oz black bream **BAIT:** Mackerel strip
VENUE: Reef off Plymouth **DATE:** 17/03/24

Bernie O'Connor, Upton upon Severn
FISH: 198lb common skate **BAIT:** Squid and mackerel **VENUE:** Oban **DATE:** 19/03/24

Nick Grech-Cini, Devon
FISH: 3lb 4oz red bream **BAIT:** Squid
VENUE: Reef off Plymouth **DATE:** 17/03/24

Ruari Ludden, Dublin
FISH: 12lb bull huss **BAIT:** Whiting
VENUE: Valentia Island, Co Kerry, Ireland
DATE: 31/03/24

Jason Brown, Peterhead
FISH: 10lb thornback ray
BAIT: Herring and squid cocktail
VENUE: Balcary **DATE:** 07/03/24

Peter Bartlett
FISH: 12lb 8oz bass **BAIT:** Squid and rag cocktail
VENUE: Rhoose Point, Glamorgan
DATE: 30/03/24

Issac Jones, Pembrokeshire
FISH: 7lb 2oz bull huss
BAIT: Anchovy
VENUE: Saundersfoot Harbour

Damo White
FISH: 16lb 4oz blonde ray
BAIT: Launce
VENUE: Bridgend
DATE: 06/04/24

YOUR FISHING CATCHES

Tate Lloyd, Cardiff
FISH: 10lb 2oz small-eyed ray
BAIT: Whole squid
VENUE: Monknash beach, South Wales
DATE: 01/04/24

◀ Rob Griffiths, Truro
FISH: 3lb 7oz black bream
BAIT: Squid strip
VENUE: Newquay reef mark
DATE: 11/04/24

▶ Ian Chapman
FISH: 16lb 8oz undulate ray
BAIT: Mackerel and squid wrap
VENUE: Cowes Esplanade, Isle Of Wight
DATE: 29/3/24

Graham Alecock Smith
FISH: Pollack **BAIT:** 20g Fiiish Black Eel **VENUE:** Falmouth **DATE:** 31/03/24

HOW TO ENTER

Email only to sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk
Please supply these details: angler's name, age, address, telephone number, email, type of FISH, weight of FISH, where caught, DATE caught, BAIT/rig, whether caught from shore or boat, if from charter boat, give name of boat, port and skipper. Please state if the FISH was retained or returned.

Send us your entries and win some great prizes

- **SHORE LURE OPTION: Solaris 4000 or 5000 reel, RRP: £60, Epixor 15-50g rod RRP: £80**
- **SHORE LURE OPTION: Solaris 4000 or 5000 reel, RRP: £60, Epixor 15-50g rod RRP: £80**
- **BOAT: Classic CLX, RRP: £60 Cortez Boat Rod, RRP: £90**
- **SHORE BAIT OPTION: DSA reel RRP: £60, Wave Power surf rod, RRP: £80**

YOUR TARGETS...

Catch a FISH on this list at the weight or above in your region to qualify for the chance to win prizes in our Mission catch competition. To enter, send us the details requested above and email that information and your picture to sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk.

	SHORE	BOAT
Bass	7lb	9lb
Black bream	2lb	3lb
Red bream	2lb	3lb
Couch's & Pandora's bream	1lb 8oz	1lb 8oz
Gilthead bream	4lb	4lb
Ray's bream	3lb	3lb
Brill	3lb	5lb
Bull huss	8lb	12lb
Cod	7lb	10lb
Conger	20lb	40lb
Dab & megrim	1lb	1lb
Dover/lemon sole	2lb	2lb
Flounder	2lb	2lb
Halibut	20lb	20lb
Ling	5lb	19lb
Mullet	4lb	5lb
Golden grey mullet	2lb	2lb
Plaice	2lb	4lb
Pollack/coal	6lb	12lb
Common skate	60lb	100lb
Blonde ray	12lb	17lb
Thornback ray	9lb	14lb
Small-eyed/undulate	7lb	11lb
Ray (other)	3lb	5lb
Sting/eagle ray	20lb	25lb
Smoothhound	10lb	14lb
Spurdog	7lb	11lb
Tope	27lb	35lb
Trigger	2lb	3lb
Turbot	10lb	13lb
Wrasse (ballan)	4lb	4lb
Wrasse (other)	1lb	1lb
Blue shark	-	60lb
Porbeagle/thresher	-	100lb

THE RULES...

- **Only catches since April 2024 are eligible.**
- **We must see a picture of the fish.**
- **We may refuse an entry.**
- **Enter by email only (please include all of the information requested in How to Enter panel) to sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk**
- **Prizes as stated (Okuma reserves the right to send alternatives).**
- **No correspondence will be entered into.**

MONTHLY WINNERS:
SHORE: Ruari Ludden, Dublin
BOAT: Peter Bartlett, South Wales

YOUNG RODS

Sea Angler's celebration of the great angling achievements of its many younger readers

In association with

FISHING MEGA STORE .COM

▲ **Felix Bryant** caught his personal best smoothhound. The 8lb 8oz fish fell to a squid bait and was caught from a south Devon mark.

▲ Thirteen-year-old **Izaac Walker** used old ragworm bait in unfavourable conditions to tempt his best ever shore caught bass. After an epic scrap on LRF gear he landed this cracking 4lb and 3oz fish.

▲ **Ashton Lynch**, aged six, from Swansea, caught this 3lb 4oz bass on his first cast of his first bass fishing trip! Ashton was using peeler crab for bait.

▲ **Harrison Smith**, aged 13, went fishing for the first time with his uncle in the Loughor Estuary near Swansea. He's definitely fallen in love with it and couldn't believe he caught a 3lb 5oz bass. He can't wait to go again.

▲ **Daniel Ludden**, aged nine, from Dublin, was fishing from the pontoons on Valentia Island, County Kerry when he caught this 7lb bull huss using mackerel fillet. Not bad for his first fish!

▲ Fourteen-year-old **Rhys Williams** of Camborne AA recently broke the Cornish junior county record for whiting with a fine fish of 1lb 12oz 7dr. He broke it twice on the same night with two almost identical fish caught on a running ledger from a South Coast rock mark.

£25 TACKLE VOUCHER WINNERS

Fishingmegastore.com awards a £25 voucher prize to each of two winners - the youngster with the best shore fish and another with the top boat catch. The winners can use the voucher to select tackle from Fishingmegastore.com which is based in Glasgow and Edinburgh.

■ **Send your Young Rods entries by email to sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk**

Uttings .co.uk

ORDER ONLINE **www.uttings.co.uk**

NEXT DAY DELIVERY
Order before 2.30pm Monday to Friday & get your order **NEXT DAY** (Sat extra).

POSTAL ADDRESS
Uttings Ltd
PO Box 672, Norwich, NR3 2ZR

SONIK GRAVITY X5 HT

- Unground carbon finish at rod joints makes it easier to take apart after use
- White hollow carbon tip for easy bite detection in poor light conditions
- Fuji corrosion control frames provide 7 times more corrosion resistance
- Shrink wrap on the lower handle to improve grip whilst casting
- Super lightweight high modulus carbon blank
- X5 multi-directional nanofibre tip section lay-up
- Fuji Alconite K Series guides
- Fuji DPS reel fitting

'It's an absolutely fantastic shore rod'
'The ultimate power is utterly immense and evident during the casting process'
Paul Fenech - Sea Angler review issue 566 Jan/Feb '19

A true all rounder...

	RRP
14ft - 5-7oz - 2 Piece	£329.99 **£249.99**
15ft 4in - 4-8oz - 3 Piece	£349.99 **£269.99**

anyfish anywhere Blue Label Range

Exceptional performance both in terms of casting and fishing at a price point that makes them very accessible.

four&bait rod mk2

Surfcasting Rods	RRP	OUR PRICE
13ft 3-5oz Fixed Spool	£225	**£179.99**
13ft 3-5oz Multiplier	£225	**£179.99**
14ft 3-5oz Fixed Spool	£235	**£189.99**
14ft 3-5oz Multiplier	£235	**£189.99**

six&bait rod mk2

Surfcasting Rods	RRP	OUR PRICE
13ft 5-7oz Fixed Spool	£255	**£199.99**
13ft 5-7oz Multiplier	£255	**£199.99**
14ft 5-7oz Fixed Spool	£270	**£209.99**
14ft 5-7oz Multiplier	£270	**£209.99**
15ft 5-7oz Fixed Spool	£280	**£219.99**
15ft 5-7oz Multiplier	£280	**£219.99**

ASSO FISHING LINE & PYCO BRAID

Choice of 12 Lines & Leaders

anyfish anywhere PRO RED LABEL SERIES

Worlds first truly Professional standard beach fishing rods

Tournament Match Pro Mk2 Review
"One of the most powerful rods I've ever had the pleasure of casting...The tip speed is immense & when the timing all comes together perfectly the rod's performance is totally exquisite."
Paul Fenech, Sea Angler Magazine

Match Pro MK2
13ft 7in - 150-175g — RRP £549.99 **NOW £499.99**

Grand Prix Pro Mk2
Slimmed down version, lighter by about 3oz's with 24mm butt + Reducer.
Multiplier 13ft 10in - 4-7oz (150-200g) — RRP £599.99 **NOW £459.99**

GBFS Pro MK2
Fixed Spool 14ft + Reducer — Casts 4-8oz (150-200g) — RRP £574.99 **NOW £439.99**

Estuary Rods MK2

Fixed Spool or Multiplier	RRP	NOW
11ft - 30-90g	£249.99	**£184.99**
12ft - 30-90g	£249.99	**£189.99**

Bass Pro Mk1
12ft 6in - 90-150g
Fixed Spool & Multiplier — RRP £325 **NOW £275**

Tournament Match Pro MK2
Multiplier 13ft 11in + Reducer — Casts 5-7oz (150-200g) — RRP £574.99 **NOW £439.99**

SHIMANO SpeedMaster H SURF RODS

A mid-priced, fast action, long range surf rod which combines a high quality carbon blank with quality fittings and powerful casting performance. Sitting in the middle of the Shimano surf rod range and offers a variety of model options to exactly suit your preference.

			RRP	NOW
Speedmaster H Surf Rod 14ft (4.25m)	Hybrid	3 Piece - 150g - Fuji Fazlite K-type	£184.99	**£149**
Speedmaster H Surf Rod 14ft (4.25m)	Hybrid	3 Piece - 200g - Fuji Fazlite K-type	£194.99	**£155**
Speedmaster H Surf Rod 14ft 6in (4.5m)	Hybrid	3 Piece - 150g - Fuji Fazlite K-type	£199.99	**£159**
Speedmaster H Surf Rod 14ft 6in (4.5m)	Hybrid	3 Piece - 200g - Fuji Fazlite K-type	£204.99	**£165**
Speedmaster H Surf Rod 13ft (4.05m)	Hybrid	3 Piece - 200g - Fuji Low Rider Concept "O"	£189.99	**£149**
Speedmaster H Surf Rod 14ft (4.25m)	Hybrid	3 Piece - 200g - Fuji Low Rider Concept "O"	£194.99	**£155**
Speedmaster H Surf Rod 14ft (4.25m)	Tubular	3 Piece - 200g - Fuji Low Rider Concept "O"	£194.99	**£155**

SHIMANO ULTEGRA SURF HYBRID J RODS

NEW

The Ultegra Surf is designed especially for the serious ultra long range surf angler or tournament specialist. Combining some of SHIMANO'S most advanced carbon technologies with premium fittings, options of this stunning lightweight, well balanced range include both hybrid and tubular configurations to suit personal preference.

Ultegra XR Surf 13ft	200g	Hybrid J Low Rider	3 Piece....**£249.99**
Ultegra XR Surf 14ft	200g	Hybrid J Low Rider	3 Piece....**£259.99**
Ultegra XR Surf 14ft	225g	Hybrid J Low Rider	3 Piece....**£259.99**
Ultegra XR Surf 14ft 9in	200g	Hybrid J	3 Piece....**£279.99**
Ultegra XR Surf 14ft 9in	225g	Hybrid J	3 Piece....**£279.99**
Ultegra XR Surf 14ft 9in	250g	Hybrid J	3 Piece....**£279.99**

SHIMANO AERLEX SPECIAL OFFER SURF HYBRID/TUBULAR RODS

Affordability, impressive casting performance and build quality, make this rod ideal for the serious angler with a limited budget, or the improving angler who wants to move up the price scale.

			RRP	NOW
Aerlex Surf Rod 14ft (4.25m)	Hybrid	3 Piece - 150g - Seaguide Zirconia	£129.99	**£99**
Aerlex Surf Rod 14ft (4.25m)	Hybrid	3 Piece - 200g - Seaguide Zirconia	£129.99	**£99**
Aerlex Surf Rod 14ft 6in (4.5m)	Hybrid	3 Piece - 150g - Seaguide Zirconia	£134.99	**£99**
Aerlex Surf Rod 14ft 6in (4.5m	Hybrid	3 Piece - 200g - Seaguide Zirconia	£144.99	**£99**
Aerlex Surf Rod 13ft (4.05m)	Hybrid	3 Piece - 200g - Fuji Low Rider Concept "O"	£129.99	**£99**
Aerlex Surf Rod 14ft (4.25m)	Hybrid	3 Piece - 200g - Fuji Low Rider Concept "O"	£144.99	**£99**
Aerlex Surf Rod 14ft (4.25m)	Tubular	3 Piece - 200g - Fuji Low Rider Concept "O"	£149.99	**£99**

SHIMANO ULTEGRA XR SURF RODS

NEW

The Ultegra XR Surf is a highly technical rod designed especially for ultra long range fishing. Combining some of SHIMANO'S most advanced carbon technologies with advanced tapers and premium fittings, this stunning range maximises distance performance for anglers with highly tuned casting techniques.

Ultegra XR Surf 14ft	225g	Hybrid Low Rider	3 Piece....	**£359.99**
Ultegra XR Surf 14ft	250g	Hybrid Low Rider	3 Piece....	**£359.99**
Ultegra XR Surf 14ft 9in	225g	Tubular Low Rider	3 Piece....	**£379.99**
Ultegra XR Surf 14ft 9in	250g	Tubular Low Rider	3 Piece....	**£379.99**
Ultegra XR Surf 14ft 9in	200g	Hybrid	3 Piece....	**£379.99**
Ultegra XR Surf 14ft 9in	225g	Tubular	3 Piece....	**£379.99**

SHIMANO SURFCASTING REELS

Surfleader Ci4+ Reel	Power Aero 14000 XSB Reel	Fliegen 35SD Reel	Bull's Eye 9120 Surf Reel	Bull's Eye 9100 Surf Reel	Aero Technium MgS XSD - 14000 Reel
RRP £284.99	RRP £399.99	RRP £459.99	RRP £419.99	RRP £419.99	RRP £699.99
£199	**£299.99**	**£399.99**	**£349.99**	**£369.99**	**£589.99**

SeaAngler PICK OF THE MONTH

SHIMANO SURFCASTING REELS

Aerlex 10000XSB Surf Casting Reel	Speedmaster 14000XSD Surf Reel	Ultegra XSD 5500 Surf Reel / Big Pit Reel	Ultegra 14000 XSD Surf Reel	Ultegra XSE 14000 Surf Reel	Ultegra CI4+ 14000 XSC Surf Reel
RRP £114.99	RRP £164.99	RRP £179.99	RRP £174.99	RRP £209.99	RRP £299.99
£89.99	**£129.99**	**£149.99**	**SOLD OUT**	**£149.99**	**£225**

DAIWA SURF RODS

Fishing rods for beach fishing

- Stainless Frame Guides with Aluminium Oxide Rings
- Premium Grade Blank

SEAHUNTER Z - Beachcaster Rods
- Shrink Grip Handle • Parallel Handle design
- Power Progressive Actions
- DPS Slide Locking Reel Seat

		RRP	NOW
12ft 6in	Beachcaster 4-8oz	£129.99	**£109.99**
13ft 6in	Beachcaster 4-8oz	£139.99	**£119.99**
14ft	Beachcaster 4-8oz	£149.99	**£129.99**

SEAHUNTER Z - Seabass Rods
- Suite to Fixed Spool or Multiplier • DPS Reel Seat
- Split Duplon Grip Handle

			RRP	NOW
11ft	Seabass 1-3oz		£109.99	**£99.99**
11ft 6in	Seabass 1-3oz		£109.99	**£99.99**

CROSSCAST 33 - Surf Rods
For distance beach work with a big fixed spool over clean to medium ground. The built in carbon Hybrid Tip, ensures bite detection across the species mix.

		RRP	NOW
13ft 10in Hybrid Tip	100-225g	£125	**£89**
14ft 10in Hybrid Tip	100-225g	£140	**£115**

SANDSTORM - Surf Rods
- Premium Carbon Blanks • Fuji BRC Butt Cap
- Split EVA Grip Handle • Sliding DPS Reel Seat
- SEAGUIDE Deep Drawn Frame Guides with Aluminium Oxide Ring

			RRP	NOW
12ft 6in	Multiplier	100-200g	£180	**£134.99**
13ft 6in	Multiplier	100-200g	£190	**£139.99**
14ft 2in	Multiplier	100-200g	£190	**£139.99**
12ft 6in	Fixed Spool	100-200g	£180	**£134.99**
13ft 6in	Fixed Spool	100-200g	£190	**£139.99**

DAIWA SEAHUNTER Z

NEW

Seahunter Z Surf Rods			RRP	NOW
12ft 6in	4-8oz	2 Piece	£129.99	**£109.99**
13ft 6in	4-8oz	2 Piece	£139.99	**£119.99**
14ft	4-8oz	3 Piece	£149.99	**£129.99**

Seahunter Z Bass Rods			RRP	NOW
11ft	1-3oz	2 Piece	£109.99	**£99.99**
11ft 6in	1-3oz	5 Piece	£109.99	**£99.99**

Seahunter Z Boat Rods			RRP	NOW
7ft 6in	30-50lb	2 Piece	£99.99	**£89.99**
7ft 8in	20-30lb	2 Piece	£99.99	**£89.99**
7ft 10in	12-20lb	2 Piece	£99.99	**£89.99**
9ft 6in	4-10oz	2 Piece Uptide	£99.99	**£89.99**

A strong and powerful feel with no compromise on performance. This range will serve across the boat and beach spectrum with ease, delivering tremendous value for money.

SURF BASS BOAT UPTIDE

DAIWA 4, 5 & 6 PIECE TRAVEL RODS

- HVF • X45
- 3DX • V-Joint
- Fuji 'O' Ring Guides
- Rubber Gimbal
- Multi Section assembly for compact pack down

Premium Grade Blank • Shrink Tube Handle • DPS Slide Locking Reel Seat • Stainless Frame Guides with Aluminium Oxide Rings

Saltist 4 & 5 Piece Travel Spin Rods

			RRP	NOW
6ft 5in - 28-84g	4 Piece		£195	**£159**
7ft - 14-42g	4 Piece		£210	**£169**
8ft - 14-42g	5 Piece		£220	**£179**
8ft 6in - 80-140g	5 Piece	Travel	£230	**£189**

Tournament 4 Piece Travel Boat Rods

			RRP	NOW
6ft 6in - 30-60lbs	4 Piece		£235	**£169**
7ft 6in - 15-25lbs or 25-40lbs	4 Piece		£235	**£169**

Seahunter Z Bass Travel Rod - 6 Piece
11ft - 2-4oz — 6 Piece — **SOLD OUT**

DAIWA SURF RODS

Fishing rods for beach fishing

AIR SURF - Surf Rods
- SVF and X45
- Mega Top Carbon Hybrid Tip
- Guides: Fuji K Guide with Alconite (Multiplier)
- Guides: Fuji LC with Alconite (Fixed Spool)

			RRP	NOW
13ft 6in	Multiplier	2 Piece 4-8oz	£515	**£389**
14ft 2in	Multiplier	2 Piece 4-8oz	£525	**£399**
15ft 3in	Fixed Spool	3 Piece 3-7oz	£550	**£399**

SALTIST - Surf Rods

			RRP	NOW
12ft 6in	Multiplier	100-200g	£230	**£189**
13ft 6in	Multiplier	100-200g	£260	**£219**
14ft 2in	Multiplier	100-200g	£265	**£225**
14ft	Fixed Spool	84-150g	£270	**£229**
14ft	Fixed Spool Hybrid	3-6oz	£280	**£229**

TOURNAMENT - PRO Surf Rods

2 Piece		RRP	NOW
11ft 6in	Bass Fixed Spool	2-4oz	£275	**£229**
13ft 6in	Multiplier	3-7oz	£355	**£289**
14ft 6in	Multiplier	4-8oz	£355	**£289**

TOURNAMENT - HT Surf Rods

			RRP	NOW
14ft	Fixed Spool Hybrid	3-6oz	£340	**£249**
15ft	Fixed Spool Hybrid	3-6oz	£360	**£269**

DAIWA MULTIPLIER SURF REELS

7HT Millionaire Tournament	7HT Millionaire Mag	7HT Millionaire Mag Super Tuned	SL20SH Sealine Slosh	SL30SH Sealine Slosh
RRP £225 **£159.99**	RRP £399 **£299.99**	RRP £595 **£419.99**	RRP £135 **£92.99**	RRP £135 **£94.99**

DAIWA SURF REELS

Fishing reels for beach fishing

Shorecast 5000B & 6000B	20 Crosscast 35 SCW 5000C QD	20 Crosscast 45 SCW 5000C QD	21 Crosscast 45 SCW QD OT	23 Emblem Surf 45 SCW QD	20 T Basia 45 SCW 5000C QD
Fixed spool surf reel	Surf reel	Surf reel	Fixed spool reel	Surfcasting reel	Surf reel
RRP £94.99 **£79.99**	RRP £125 **£99**	RRP £150 **£115**	RRP £165 **£119.99**	RRP £230 **£199.99**	RRP £790 **£599**

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AKIOS BEACHCASTERS

BORN TO RAISE HELL!
HELLRAZOR
4.2m
RRP £169.99
£139

NEW
AIRSPEED SURF 435 MKII EDITION
CONTINENTAL ROD • 3 PIECE
4.35m / 14ft 6in RRP £379.99 £299

NEW
AIRPOWER SURF 435 RXP MKII EDITION
CONTINENTAL ROD • 3 PIECE
4.35m / 14ft 6in RRP £439.99 £369

NEW
AIRTORQUE SURF 435 MKII EDITION
CONTINENTAL ROD • 3 PIECE
4.35m / 14ft 6in RRP £399.99 £349

AIRPOWER SURF 435 SRS MKII EDITION
CONTINENTAL ROD • 3 PIECE
4.35m / 14ft 6in RRP £439.99 £369

NEW
AIRLYTE 355
CONTINENTAL ROD • 2 PIECE
3.55m / 11ft 6in
RRP £199.99 £169

NEW
CREED GP420 MKII EDITION
CONTINENTAL ROD • 2 PIECE
13ft 10in RRP £449.99 £399

NEW
AIRPOWER SURF 420 GTR MKII EDITION
CONTINENTAL ROD • 2 PIECE
4.2m / 14ft RRP £449.99 £379

AKIOS BEACHCASTERS

LIGHT YEARS AHEAD!
KWAG
3 PIECE • HYBRID TIP • CONTINENTAL ROD •
MOMENTUM SLR
RRP NOW
14ft £429.99 £319
15ft £429.99 £329

A VERSATILE DUO... IN ONE!
ENDURANCE PRO RS2
SENSITIVE HYBRID TIP OR POWER TIP
4.26m RRP £269.99 £219

PHOSPHORESCENT GLOW TIP
UTOPIA 420
3 PIECE • CONTINENTAL ROD • POWER P
14ft - 4.8oz RRP £329.99 £229

NEW
Glow-In-The-Dark Tip
FURY FX435 SRS POWER
CONTINENTAL ROD • 3 PIECE
4.35m / 4ft 6in
RRP £159.99 £145

FEEL the FURY
CONTINENTAL • 3 PIECE •
FURY FX420/450
RRP NOW
14ft £154.99 £129
15ft £159.99 £129

AKIOS SURFCASTING REELS — SALTWATER LURE REELS

Fury FX8
Fixed spool reel
RRP £74.99 £59

Fireloop
Fixed spool reel
RRP £109.99 £89.99

Utopia CX8 / SX8
Fixed spool reel
CX8 - RRP £129.99 £89
SX8 - RRP £169.99 £125

Air Loop R8 / R10
Long cast fixed spool reel
R8 - RRP £146.99 £119
10 - RRP £154.99 £129

Spyro RS/GT
Spinning reel, 8 Models
RS from £74.99
GT from £39

Iron Spin 50
Fixed spool reel
RRP £169.99 £149.99

AKIOS COMBO DEALS

FURY FX420 CONTINENTAL ROD c/w UTOPIA CX8 REEL
14ft 100g-180g • 3 Piece
RRP £284.98
ONLY £199.99

FURY FX450 CONTINENTAL ROD c/w UTOPIA CX8 REEL
15ft 100g-180g • 3 Piece
RRP £288.98
ONLY £199.99

HELLRAZOR SS420 CONTINENTAL ROD c/w UTOPIA CX8 REEL
14ft 112g-225g • 3 Piece
RRP £299.98
ONLY £199.99

AIRSPEED SURF 435 CONTINENTAL ROD BLACK c/w UTOPIA SX8 REEL
14ft 6in 112g-225g • 3 Piece
RRP £549.98
ONLY £399.99

SAVE UP TO £149

AKIOS

A forward thinking company based in the UK. Developed by anglers for anglers who demand new innovative and durable fishing tackle.

WHEN DISTANCE MATTERS
SHUTTLE
6 Models - from £189.99

NEW
NITRON F-15XP
£2199.99

S-LINE
5 Models
from £129.99

TOURNO
3 Models
from £199.99

DYNAMO
2 Models
£79.99

SHUTTLE 656 LST KURO
NEW
LIMITED STOCK
LEVEL UP YOUR GAME
Ideal for shore or in-shore boat fishing.
RRP £239.99
£219.99

AKIOS IRON SPIN 50 FIXED SPOOL REEL

A powerhouse reel in a compact 5000 size body specifically engineered for targeting large predatory fish both from the shore and boat. Whether you're pursuing large catches like Tope, Blue Sharks and Turbot while out on a boat or engaging in lure fishing for tenacious predators in Norway or the Atlantic such as large Cod, Pollack, Amberjacks or Dorado, the AKIOS IRONSPIN 50 is up to the challenge.

RRP £169.99
£149.99

- Colossal 55lb/25kg Drag System
- Tough Metal Alloy Body & Rotor
- Deep & Shallow Spools
- 8+1 Stainless Bearings

NEW

Snowbee SPECIAL OFFER

DEEP BLUE² BOAT RODS

The latest Deep Blue² models, have an even lighter, crisper action than their predecessors! Finished in the same lustrous deep blue, with subtle cross-whippings and decals and using lightweight graphite reel seats and chrome-plated stainless steel rings to prevent corrosion. Accurately rated to IGFA line classes and at 7ft 7ins they offer the ideal length for the serious boat angler and include a model to suit all fishing situations.

Butt Cap
Gimbal

			RRP	NOW
10201	7ft 7in	IGFA 8lbs Class	Butt Cap...£139.99	£99
10209	7ft 7in	IGFA 8lbs Class 'S-Flex'	Butt Cap...£139.99	£99
10202	7ft 7in	IGFA 12lbs Class	Butt Cap...£139.99	£99
10205	7ft 7in	IGFA 12lbs Class 'S-Flex'	Butt Cap...£139.99	£99
10203	7ft 7in	IGFA 20lbs Class	Gimbal.....£149.99	£99
10204	7ft 7in	IGFA 30lbs Class	Gimbal.....£149.99	£99

10201 - 8lb (4KG) CLASS
Ultra-sensitive inshoreod for bass, plaice, brill etc.

10209 - 8lb (4KG) CLASS 'S-FLEX'
Ultra-soft Korean S-Grip tip section, for supreme sensitivity.

1020 - 12lb (6KG) CLASS
For inshore angler fishing reefs,inshore drop-offs, reef pollack etc.

10202 - 12lb (6KG) CLASS 'S-FLEX'
Ultra-sensitive tip. For heavier bait fishing, turbot, black bream & livebait.

10203 - 20lb (10LB) CLASS
Best 'all-rounder', for inshore fishing, bass etc & the hardest fighting wreck pollack.

10204 - 30lb (15KG) CLASS
Ideal for fishing wrecks. Powerful rod for hauling conger & ling out of deep-water.

AKIOS

A forward thinking company based in the UK. Developed by anglers for anglers who demand new innovative and durable fishing tackle.

WHEN DISTANCE MATTERS
SHUTTLE
6 Models - from £189.99

NEW
NITRON F-15XP
£2199.99

S-LINE
5 Models
from £129.99

TOURNO
3 Models
from £199.99

DYNAMO
2 Models
£79.99

SHUTTLE 656 LST KURO
NEW
LIMITED STOCK
LEVEL UP YOUR GAME
Ideal for shore or in-shore boat fishing.
RRP £239.99
£219.99

DAIWA BOAT RODS

Fishing rods suitable for boat trips

Kenzaki Super Boat Rods - 2, 3 & 4 piece - 13 Models
RRP £190 from £149

Seahunter Z-BU Boat Rods - 2 piece - 4 Models..... from £49

Saltist Jigging/Popping Boat Rods - 2 piece - 3 Models..... from £155

Tournament Boat Rods - 2 piece - 5 Models..... RRP £215 from £149

Team Daiwa X Boat Rods - 2 piece - 3 Models..... RRP £170 from £129

DAIWA BOAT REELS

Fishing reels for sea fishing

4 MODELS	5 MODELS	3 MODELS	20 MODELS	9 MODELS
Sealine Slosh	18 Saltist	Saltist	20 Saltiga LD	20 Saltiga (G)
Boat reel	Boat reel	Level wind reel	Single & 2 speed boat reels	Saltwater spinning reel
from £92.99	from £239.99	from £239.99	from £399	from £899

SHIMANO STAND-UP BOAT RODS

Fishing rods for sea fishing

TLD - A Stand-Up Boat Rods
This rod is the perfect choice when you want to fish for big tuna or shark.
- XT60 + Biofibre blank
- Machined from marine grade aluminum and anodized to prevent corrosion.

	RRP	NOW
1.67m 20lb	£124.99	£99
1.67m 30lb Roller	£189.99	£139
1.67m 50lb Roller	SOLD OUT	
1.67m 80lb Roller	£219.99	£169

2 PIECES

VENGEANCE - Stand-Up Boat Rods
- Perfect for small boats

	RRP	NOW
5ft 5in8lb - 16lb	£64.99	£35
5ft 5in16lb - 20lb	£64.99	£35
5ft 5in20lb - 30lb	£64.99	£35
5ft 5in30lb - 50lb	SOLD OUT	

1 PIECE

TYRNOS - A stand-Up Boat Rods
- ALPS heavy duty SIC lined guides
- Ideal for UK Shark Fishing

	RRP	NOW
1.65m30lb	SOLD OUT	
1.65m50lb	SOLD OUT	
1.65m80lb	SOLD OUT	

2 PIECES

TIAGRA - Hyper Stand-Up Boat Rods
- High pressure carbon blanks • AFTO guides
- Pacific Bay Reelseat

	RRP	NOW
1.75m30lb	£414.99	£269
1.73m50lb Bent Butt	£434.99	£299
1.6m 80lb Bent Butt	£534.99	£399

1 PIECE

SHIMANO BOAT REELS

Charter Special TR LD Special 1000/2000	TLD LEVER DRAG	TORIUM A HG	TEKOTA A	TYRNOS
SOLD OUT	Single & 2 Speed - 7 Models	5 Models	6 Models	6 Models
	from £129.99	from £179.99	from £189.99	from £199.99

SHIMANO STAND-UP BOAT RODS

TIAGRA XTR-A STAND-UP TROLLING

	RRP	NOW
5' 5" - 80lb	£329.99	SOLD OUT

TIAGRA HYPER STAND-UP

	RRP	NOW
1.75m - 30lb	£414.99	£269
1.73m - 50lb Bent Butt	£434.99	£299
1.6m - 80lb Bent Butt	£534.99	£399

TIAGRA ULTRA GAME STAND-UP

	RRP	NOW
5'4" - 50lb	£924.99	£549
5'4" - 80lb	£934.99	£599

TIAGRA LTD EDITION ULTRA A STAND-UP

	RRP	NOW
5'5" - 30lb - 50lb	£695	£349
5'5" - 50lb - 80lb		SOLD OUT

SHIMANO BOAT REELS

SpeedMaster LD II	TALICA	OCEA JIGGER	OCEA JIGGER F CUSTOM	TIAGRA
6 Models	5 Models	Silver - 2 Models	2 Models	4 Models
from £189.99	from £299.99	from £369.99	from £439.99	from £549.99

FLADEN

ONE PIECE FLOTATION SUIT

The lightest suit on the market. Has the same extreme buoyancy and thermal protection as the other Fladen Rescue Systems

RRP £189.99
£159.99

SCANDIA TWO PIECE FLOTATION SUIT

The Bib and Brace has a built in buoyancy, and when worn with the jacket exceeds the current Flotation Suit regulation requirements.

The new Bib & Brace trousers becomes a certified flotation suit only when worn with the Flotation Jacket

	RRP	NOW
Flotation Jacket	£137.99	£119.99
Flotation Bib & Brace	£119.99	£89.99

FLADEN

RESCUE SYSTEM
ONE PIECE FLOTATION SUIT

An affordable flotation suit that does not compromise on safety. With the same extreme buoyancy and thermal protection that you expect from all Fladen Rescue System Suits. An Updated model of Fladen's popular 845 suit, the 845XY features the same functions and quality that you're used to, but with a modern touch.

RRP £189.99 £159.99

E+OE Prices subject to change. Goods subject to availability

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Okuma MAKAIRA

INSPIRED FISHING

SPINNING REELS

Inspired by strength. Constructed from the finest, strongest materials available these are tough and durable spinning reels, especially for big gamen fish.

Makaira MK-10000L Spinning Reel - Left Hand **£599**

Makaira MK-20000LS Spinning Reel - Left Hand **£599**

Makaira MK-30000LS Spinning Reel - Left Hand **£649**

Okuma TESORO

INSPIRED FISHING

SPINNING REELS

NEW

"The number one sales driver is the IPX-7 waterproof rating covering the body and the spool." Angling International

With hydro blocking technology for saltwater environments. 100% waterproof, strong, light weight aluminum body, specially reinforced high strength brass gears and a high output carbonite drag with Cal's drag grease on a full Dual Force Drag- (DFD) system, for tackling big game fish such as tuna and swordfish.

	RRP	NOW
8000PA SP Low Speed	£341.99	£299.99
10000PA SP Low Speed	£341.99	£299.99
14000PA SP Low Speed	£341.99	£299.99
18000PA SP Low Speed	£363.99	£319.99
20000PA SP Low Speed	£363.99	£319.99

Oversized, precision machine cut alloy main gear

Okuma SALINA

INSPIRED FISHING

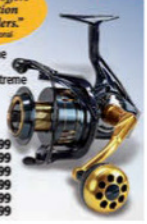
SPINNING REELS

NEW

"This new breed of reels offers another option for elite anglers." Angling International

One of the best saltwater fishing reels on the market. Features Okuma's rigid Litecast construction, Dual Force Drag System for extreme stopping powe, proprietary High Density Gearing with corrosion resistant coating, high-speed gear ratio and customized aluminum handle.

	RRP	NOW
8000 Spinning	£195.99	£159.99
10000 Spinning	£198.99	£159.99
14000 Spinning	£198.99	£164.99
4000H Spin High-Speed	£183.99	£174.99
5000H Spin High-Speed	£183.99	£179.99
6000H Spin High-Speed	£187.99	£179.99



Vanquish FC

MGL SERIES

SHIMANO

Beyond Lightness

Pinnacle of lightweight engineering for finesse anglers seeking the ultimate in performance.

Equipped with the lightest Magnumlite Rotor. Perfect balance, lightness and low inertia rotation, produces exceptional performance and awareness.

1000, 2000, 2500, 3000, 4000, 5000

11 Models from **£399.99**

DAIWA 22 EXIST

The future of Daiwa Spinning Reels is AIRDRIVE DESIGN. By reducing the weight of rotor, spool & bail assembly, a lighter rotation is achieved. The effortless rotation allows the angler to feel the true joy of trouble free function. This new chapter starts with 22 EXIST.

22 Exist PC LT	2500D G	22 Exist LT	4000D G
22 Exist LT	2000D-P G	22 Exist LT	5000D-C G
22 Exist LT	3000D G		

RRP £850-£900 - 5 Models Available from **£699**

Is this the BEST spinning reel ever made!

NEW

DAIWA BASS LURE RODS

Fishing rods for sea bass fishing

Sandstorm Bass Spinning Rods

- Premium Carbon Blanks
- Fixed Spool DPS Reel Seat
- Seaguide Deep Drawn Frame Guides with Aluminium Oxide Ring
- Split EVA Grip Handle

	RRP	NOW
11ft 6in 28-84g	£135	£110

2 PIECES

SALTIST - Bass Spinning Rods
- HVF High Volume Fibre
- X4S Technology

		RRP	NOW
8ft	10-35g	£185	£139
8ft 6in	10-35g	£190	£145
9ft	10-35g	£195	£149

SALTIST - Spinning Rods

10ft	14-60g	£170	£149
11ft 6in	28-84g	£170	£149

2 PIECES

Whisker Spin - Bass Spinning Rods

Designed to cover the multitude of fishing styles, across lure and bait with monofil or braid

		RRP	NOW
8ft	10-40g		SOLD OUT
9ft	15-50g		SOLD OUT
10ft	20-60g		SOLD OUT

2 PIECES

SHIMANO LURE RODS

S.T.C TRAVEL SPINNING RODS

A travel rod with a transport length of just 58cm, this is a rod you can pack in your suitcase, car, backpack or wherever you want to store it!

			RRP	NOW
9ft	15-40g	5 Piece	£134.99	£99
9ft	20-60g	5 Piece	£149.99	£119
10ft	20-60g	5 Piece	£139.99	£110
2.4/2.7m	3-14g	6 Piece Multi Length	£139.99	£110
2.4/2.7m	15-40g	6 Piece Multi Length	£144.99	£115
2.7/3m	20-60g	6 Piece Multi Length	£159.99	£129

LUNAMIS BASS RODS

8ft 6in	6-25g, 7-35g	2 Piece	£329.99
9ft	5-21g, 6-25g	2 Piece	£329.99
9ft 6in	7-35g, 10-45g	2 Piece	£349.99

BASSTERRA BASS RODS

7ft 2in LRF	1-11g	2 Piece	SOLD OUT
8ft LRF	3-15g	2 Piece	SOLD OUT
8ft	6-28g	2 Piece	£59.99
9ft	7-30g, 12-38g	2 Piece	£69.99
9ft 6in	15-60g	2 Piece	£69.99

DAIWA SALTWATER LURE REELS

BG Fixed Spool Reels 7 Models from **£119**

BG MAGSEALED Spinning Reels 7 Models from **£149**

20 BG MQ Fixed Spool Reels 10 Models from **£169**

20 SALTIGA (G) Fixed Spool Reels 9 Models from **£899**

• 5 Models

22 EXIST *Is this the BEST spinning reel ever made!* RRP £850-£900 from **£699**

SHIMANO SALTWATER LURE REELS

MIRAVEL 10 MODELS from **£109.99**

STRADIC FM 16 MODELS from **£189.99**

20 STRADIC SW NEW 10 MODELS 4000-14000 from **£199.99**

SPHEROS SW 3 MODELS from **£99.99**

SPHEROS SW-A 8 MODELS from **£164.99**

ULTEGRA FC 10 MODELS from **£119.99**

SARAGOSA SW-A 8 MODELS from **£199.99**

DAIWA KENZAKI

"Nothing short of superb" Sea Angler Review, June 2019

Read the review by **DAVID BARHAM** on our website

BG Magsealed Spinning Reel 7 Models - RRP £195-£245 from **£139**

Super Kenzaki FS (Fixed Spool) Boat Rod 6-12lb, 6-15lb, 12-20lb, 15-25lb, 20-30lb or 30-50lb 7', 7'6" or 8' RRP £199 **£169.99**

A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN

SHIMANO SALTWATER LURE REELS

VANFORD 13 MODELS from **£179.99**

VANQUISH 11 MODELS from **£399.99**

STELLA FK 14 MODELS from **£539.99**

TWIN POWER FD 11 MODELS from **£299**

TWIN POWER XD 6 MODELS from **£349**

TWIN POWER SW-C 11 MODELS from **£399.99**

STELLA SW-C 14 MODELS from **£729.99**

DOUGLAS SKY G

S6904 SALTWATER FLY ROD

Altogether, you'll find the Douglas SKY G Fly Rod Series offers superb dampening and recovery, near-effortless casting, accuracy, and outstanding durability. Innovative top-of-the-line components include: REC Titanium Cerecoil stripper guides with zirconia inserts, REC Titanium recoil guides, AAAA flor grade cork, a skeletonized aluminum reel seat, double uplocking rings with nylon bushings, and burled blackwood inserts. Includes a plush rod sock and aluminum tube.

Yellowstone Angler's WINNER of BEST 9ft weight 6 rod

- Length: 9'0ft
- Line Weight: 6
- Action: Fast
- Sections: 4
- Weight: 93gram

9ft: #6 Saltwater **£849.99**

DOUGLAS SKY G

S8904 SALTWATER FLY ROD

Altogether, you'll find the Douglas SKY G Fly Rod Series offers superb dampening and recovery, near-effortless casting, accuracy, and outstanding durability. Innovative top-of-the-line components include: REC Titanium Cerecoil stripper guides with zirconia inserts, REC Titanium recoil guides, AAAA flor grade cork, a skeletonized aluminum reel seat, double uplocking rings with nylon bushings, and burled blackwood inserts. Includes a plush rod sock and aluminum tube.

8wt Shootout done by FIELD & STREAM WINNER DOUGLAS SKY G 8904 9ft #8

- Length: 9'0ft
- Line Weight: 8
- Action: Fast
- Sections: 4
- Weight: 102gram
- Saltwater friendly hard wear

9ft: #8 Saltwater Also available in #7 #9 #10 **£849.99**

G.LOOMIS SALTWATER FLY

UK APPOINTED DEALER

ASQUITH

Built on Shimano's proprietary Spiral X platform, the Asquith boasts superb power transfer from tip to hand, quick recovery, and increased sensitivity.

ASQ 890	9ft	#7 #8	4 Piece..£899.99
ASQ 1090	9ft	#9 #10	4 Piece..£899.99
ASQ 1290	9ft	#11 #124	Piece..£999.99

NRX+

Empowers anglers with confidence-boosting control in less-than-ideal situations.

NRX+ S 790 / 890 / 990	9ft	#7 #8 #9	4 Piece..£799.99
NRX+ S 1090	9ft	#10	4 Piece..£849.99
NRX+ S 1290	9ft	#12	4 Piece..£899.99
NRX+ 10810-2	8ft 10"	#10	2 Piece..£749.99
NRX+ 12810-2	8ft 10"	#12	2 Piece..£749.99

G.LOOMIS SALTWATER FLY RODS

UK APPOINTED DEALER

MULTI TAPER

IMX-PRO S V2 SALTWATER FLY RODS

Rolled for pumped performance in salty environments, IMX-PRO V2S actions are tuned for utility in three specific areas: improved tracking in the wind, lifting generous lengths of line before a re-cast, and fish fighting control. G.Loomis engineers designed these versatile actions with gobs of power through the bottom half of the rod but, most uniquely, developed a slightly tighter tip to minimize tailing loops and improve tracking and line pick-up. A proprietary blend of technologies - Conduit Core and GL7 resin system - provides surplus strength and impact resistance without the extra weight, creating a blank that allows anglers to stay frosty when a "send" becomes a "bend."

9ft #6	4 Piece		£499.99
9ft #7	4 Piece		£499.99
9ft #8	4 Piece		£499.99
9ft #9	4 Piece		£499.99
9ft #10	4 Piece		£499.99
9ft #11	4 Piece		£499.99
9ft #12	4 Piece		£499.99

Snowbee SALTWATER RODS & REELS

SPECTRE RMX SALTWATER 4PCE With the ever increasing popularity of Saltwater Bass, Bonefish, Carp & Pike fly fishing, the "Saltwater Predator" model is top of the Spectre range. RRP £259 **£139**

PRESTIGE G-XS SW SALTWATER The most powerful in the saltwater series, yet still deceptively light and easy to cast. 9ft #7 - 4 Piece RRP £559 **£399** Also available in #8 & #10

XS FLY REELS The first choice for the best of saltwater Bonefish, Jacks, Permit and smaller Tarpon, or Bass & Pollock. #7/9 #9/11 - **from £199**

SPECTRE FLY REELS Ultra-lightweight, precision CNC machined aluminium reels for a better rod/reel balance #9/10 #10/11 **SOLD OUT**

Scott Sector SALTWATER FLY RODS

Scott Fly Rod Company introduces the all new Sector series of high performance, hand crafted saltwater fly rods.

Sector rods advance on Scott's award-winning Meridian series to bring you a new level of performance and reliability in saltwater fly rods.

8ft 4in	#10 #13 #15	3 Piece
8ft 4in	#6 #8	4 Piece
8ft 10in	#7 #8 #9 #10 #11 #12	2 Piece
9ft	#6 #7 #8 #9 #10 #11 #12	4 Piece

IFTD WINNER

£999

Sector 'NZ SPECIAL'

The Sector New Zealand Special has been developed specifically for chucking everything required to catch trout in gin-clear water and crammed conditions - whether it be nymph rigs, big dry flies - or even streamers. A tireless allrounder!

9ft #6 4 Piece **£999**

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G·Loomis — BASS LURE RODS

UK APPOINTED DEALER

IMX-PRO MAG BASS CASTING RODS

Bass casting rods designed for anglers that prefer the "Classic" Mag Bass actions. Full cork grips and fuji reel seats with Fuji K-frame guides provide positive grip and balance along with positive control. Incredible performance means extreme sensitivity, ultra-light weight, excellent balance and unbelievable power and strength!

IMX Pro Mag Bass 6ft 6in 7-18g 1 Piece....**£289.99**
IMX Pro Mag Bass 6ft 6in 7-21g 1 Piece....**£289.99**

IMX-PRO BASS SPINNING JIG RODS

Bass spinning rods designed for anglers that prefer the "Classic" Spin Jig actions. Full cork grips and fuji reel seats with Fuji K-frame guides provide positive grip and balance along with positive control. Incredible performance means extreme sensitivity, ultra-light weight, excellent balance and unbelievable power and strength!

IMX Pro Mag Bass 6ft 2-9g 1 Piece.....**£289.99**
IMX Pro Mag Bass 7ft 4-10g 1 Piece.....**£289.99**

G·Loomis — LURE RODS 2023 WINNER BASSMASTER CLASSIC

E6X WALLEYE UNIVERSAL SPINNING
Easy loading, easy casting for fishing virtually any size baits/rigs
7ft 6in 2-9g 2 Piece.....**£169**

IMX HOTSHOT
Surprising power in such a small package, very sensitive and lightweight.
7ft 6in 7-14g 2 Piece...**£199**

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Soft and sensitive enough to allow you to react before they drop the bair.
8ft 8in 2-14g 2 Piece...**£219**

E6X INSHORE SPINNING
Multi-taper technology reduces weight, increases sensitivity.
7ft 8-17lb 1 Piece..**£139**
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GLS NRX+ JIG & WORM SPINNING — NEW
Jeff Gustafson's wins the 2023 Bassmaster Classic using the NRX+ Jig & Worm 7' 3"- 6-12lb
7ft 3in 6-12lb 1 Piece..**£449**

WALLEYE GLX JIG
Extra length helps extend casting range and provides more positive hookets in deep water.
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GLX JIG & WORM CASTING
GLX is still one of the lightest, most sensitive high-performance rods G.Loomis make.
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TROUT GLX SPINNING
Specialized series of spinning rods for trout fishing. Effective for lake or stream fishing
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Precise actions that strike a perfect balance between durability and performance.
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7ft 2in 4-8lb 2 Piece....**£339**

WESTIN — W3 SEABASS 2nd GENERATION

NEW FOR 2023

The W3 SeaBass 2nd is a super-fast and long-casting powerhouse that meets the demands of the modern sea bass angler. These rods are packed with power, and due to the premium Torayca® carbon fibers, you still get a true lightweight feeling when fishing, fish, and detecting even the mostcautious bites. Use it from the bank or boat, the W3 SeaBass 2nd will get the job done no matter the situation.

- Reel Seat: VSS
- D-Ring Hook Keeper
- Guides: LTS ring guides
- Handle: Premium EVA handle
- Reinforced with 1k woven carbon
- Blank: Torayca® High Performance Carbon blank

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

W3 Seabass 2nd generation 2 section with cloth bag

		RRP	NOW
8ft 4in	(250cm) 12.42g	£149	**£129.99**
9ft 1in	(273cm) 12.42g	£159	**£139.99**
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NEW FOR 2023

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- W3 Street Sling Medium - **£29.99**
- W3 Leg Bag Medium - **£29.99**
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- W3 Quick Bag Small - **£44.99**
- W3 Lure Loader Small - **£59.99**
- W6 Wading Backpack **£124.99**
- W6 Boat Lurebag Large - **£134.99**
- W3 CR Floating Landing Nets from **£24.99**
- W3 CR Adjustable Landing Net from **£39.99**
- W3 Street Bag Pro Medium - **£54.99**
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SAVAGE GEAR — SALTWATER LURE REELS

CLEARANCE

SG5S6
Strong, lightweight aluminium body and a carbon reinforced composite rotor, designed to deliver top performance. Features 6+1 sealed steel ball bearings, high- performance carbon drag system and our proprietary Dura Grease - all of which combine to help make the reel saltwater resistant.

5 BEARINGS • 7 BEARINGS

8 Models available - 4000, 5000, 6000, 8000, 10000, 14000, 14000H, 18000
RRP £154.99-£189.99 **NOW £79**

SG5S8
A reel with a unique coating that can easily withstood 500 hours of being sprayed with saltwater in testing. This SG5S8 with SW500 coating, is saltwater resistant. Features sealed 8+1 steel ball bearings, sealed drag system, lightweight and strong aluminium body and Carbon Reinforced Composite rotor.

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SAVAGE GEAR — NEW BAITCASTING REELS FOR 2024

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Pure power in a compact package.
SG6 250 BC LH - 6.6:1....**£119.99**
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SG6 250 BC RH - 8.8:1....**£129.99**
SG6 300 BC LH - 5.6:1....**£149.99**
SG6 300 BC RH - 5.6:1....**£149.99**
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SG8
Power, style, performance and a - the SG8 series of baitcasting reels has it all.
SG8 250 BC LH - 6.6:1....**£154.99**
SG8 250 BC LH - 8.8:1....**£154.99**
SG8 250 BC LH - 5.6:1....**£199.99**
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	RRP	NOW		RRP	NOW
8ft 3in 7-25g	£89.99	**£69.99**	9ft 7-35g	£94.99	**£74.99**
8ft 3in 10-35g	£89.99	**£69.99**	9ft 10-40g	£99.99	**£79.99**
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	RRP	NOW		RRP	NOW
9ft 7-25g	£142.99	**£99.99**	9ft 6in 7-35g	£152.99	**£109.99**
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SAVAGE GEAR — ALL-ROUND RODS - 2 PIECE

	RRP	NOW		RRP	NOW
8ft 3in 7-25g	£265.99	**£199.99**	9ft 7-35g	£275.99	**£199.99**
8ft 3in 12-42g	£265.99	**£199.99**	9ft 10-50g	£285.99	**£199.99**
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Henry Gilby & Mads Grosell have designed this amazing range of Bass rods, one of the most highly anticipated launches of. Thousands of hours of testing & casting lures from the shore in various conditions have gone into the development of these rods & lures.

Watch the Henry Gilbey Video

SAVAGE GEAR — PRECISION LURE SPECIALIST RODS

		RRP	NOW
8ft 6in 9-35g	2 Pce..	£147.99	**£124.99**
9ft 12-46g 9-35g	2 Pce from	£152.99	**£129.99**
9ft 2in 9-42g	2 Pce..	£152.99	**£129.99**
9ft 6in 9-35g 12-46g	2 Pce from	£152.99	**£129.99**

		RRP	NOW
10ft 11-46g 18-56g	2 Pce from	£173.99	**£159.99**
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Travel Rods
Alpha SG6 Monster Halibut Rods NEW
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SAVAGE GEAR — PRECISION LURE SPECIALIST RODS

		RRP	NOW
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9ft 2in 9-42g	2 Pce	£369.99	**£279.99**

		RRP	NOW
9ft 6in 9-35g 12-46g	2 Pce.from	£349.99	**£259.99**
10ft 12-46g 18-56g	2 Pce.from	£367.99	**£279.99**

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Rubber Mesh

Bottle and Net Clip
Strong ABS quick clip. L: 14.5cm W: 20g - **£4.99**

Pro Finezze Floating Landing Nets (Medium / Large)
The ideal Bass net for fishing off the rocks or on the beach - designed for lure fishing and fish care - great for Catch and Release.

	RRP	NOW
Medium	£24.99	**£22.99**
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Full Frame Net 120-200cm
Strong landing net, for landing big predator fish.

	RRP	NOW
XL	£94.99	**£79.99**

Pro Folding Telescopic Net
Extra large rubber mesh net bag, great for lure fishing & fish care

	RRP	NOW
L	£79.99	**£69.99**
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Pro Foldable Landing Net
Strong, lightweight folding net with rubber mesh bag

	RRP	NOW
L	£50.99	**£44.99**
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Full Frame Landing Net
Super strong landing net, designed to land big predator fish.

	RRP	NOW
L	£64.99	**£59.99**

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- Rollup Pouch **£14.99**
- Rig & Lure Flip Wallet **£15.99**
- Zipper Wallet 1 **£16.99**
- Lurebox 2A 16.1x9.1x3.1cm - **£5.99**
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Keep your hard lures organised with these strong, durable, two-sided washable lure boxes. Featuring sturdy, smooth hinges & tight-fit lids. Drainage holes help keep the inside dry & the double- sided design is ideal for large hard lures with treble hooks.

Recommended by *Henry Gilbey*

Short 20.5x17x4.8cm.....**£8.99**
Long 20.5x17x4.8cm.....**£9.99**
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- Specialist Lure Bags RRP M..£79.99 L.. £89.99 **NOW £69.99 £79.99**
- Specialist Sling Bag 8L RRP £44.99 **£39.99**
- Specialist Shoulder Lure Bag - 16L RRP £59.99 **£54.99**
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System Box Bag

	RRP	NOW
Small	£46.99	**£41.99**
Medium	£64.99	**£59.99**
Large	£84.99	**£74.99**
X Large	£99.99	**£84.99**

System Caryall

	RRP	NOW
Medium	£49.99	**£44.99**
Large	£54.99	**£49.99**
X Large	£64.99	**£59.99**

SAVAGE GEAR — BASS LURES

See the Henry Gilby video on how to use them - it's on out site

Working with Henry Gilbey, Savage have produced an amazing new range of soft plastics. - Read his blog on our website

SUPERB — SAVAGE GEAR SEEKER ISP — Nº1 SELLER

Black Pearl | Fluo/green/yellow | Fluo/red/black | Green Silver | White Pearl

12g / 16g / 23g / 28g
6.8cm / 8.7cm / 9.8cm,
10cm - **Only £4.89**

7 Colours

Gravity Stick Mini Kit
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10cm - 17.3g.....**£8.99**
11cm - 23.5g.....**£9.99**

ACCESSORIES

Rattle & Spike Kit 1.9g 6+6pce - RRP £9.49 **£7.99**

#6/0 Weedless Hooks
6pce - RRP £7.49 **£5.99**
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SAVAGE GEAR

Working with Henry Gilbey, Savage have produced an amazing new range of soft plastics.
Read his blog on our website

Mads and Henry have done an incredible job, not just creating the rods but crafting an entire range of product positioned specifically for the UK and Ireland's army of bass anglers.
Richard Taylor, boss of Svensden

SANDEEL V2
SINKING LURES
Designed by Henry Gilby

12cm	22g 2+1	**£8.99**
14cm	33g 2+1	**£8.99**
15.5cm	46g 2+1	**£8.99**
17.5cm	65g 2+1	**£8.99**
11.5cm	22g 2+1 Weedless	**£7.99**
13cm	31g 2+1 Weedless	**£8.99**

6 Colour Options

SANDEEL PENCIL SW
SINKING LURES
Shallow Water version

9cm	13g	**£7.99**
12.5cm	19g	**£8.99**
15cm	30g	**£10.99**

5 Colour Options

8 Colour Options

SANDEEL PENCIL
SINKING LURES
Supplied with both a single and a treble hook.

9cm	13g	**£6.99**
12.5cm	19g	**£9.99**

Rapala — BASS LURES

- X-Rap Long Cast Shallow Lure 9cm - 36g - **£12.99**
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BLACK EEL — NEW for 2020
Khaki and Cloudy White with 40g leaded head

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Khaki, Blue and Gold / Blue 140 and 120 with leaded heads of 40g and 25g

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We also stock Candy Shrimp Crazy Paddle Tail Crazy Sand Eel Mud Digger Accessories

ima — SALTWATER BASS LURES

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- Komomo II 110 Lure 11cm - Asinago - 15g **£20.99**
- Komomo 125 Lure 12.5cm - Bora - 16g **£20.99**
- Chappy 100 Lure 10cm - Aji - 18g **£19.99**
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- Sasuka 120 Reppa Lure 12cm - Sand Bora - 17g **£20.99**
- Hound 100F Sonic Lure 10cm - Sexy Mackerel - 17g **£19.99**
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NEW FOR 2022

Aan innovative jerkbait that is equipped with a unique 'Flash Boost' feature, making this lure a one-of-a-kind for inshore spinning for seabass and bluefish. Flash Boost feature increases 'flash' from the lure even when stationary. Equipped with AR-C system for increased casting distance and accuracy Floating - diving depth 0.3m

See the video on our site

- T00 Maiwashi 9.9cm - 14g - **£16.99**
- T03 Red Head 9.9cm - 14g - **£16.99**
- T04 Candy 9.9cm - 14g - **£16.99**
- T01 Bora 9.9cm - 14g - **£16.99**
- T05 Purple 9.9cm - 14g - **£16.99**
- T06 Black 9.9cm - 14g - **£16.99**
- T07 Green Gold 9.9cm - 14g - **£16.99**
- T02 Katakuchi 9.9cm - 14g - **£16.99**

E+OE Prices subject to change. Goods subject to availability

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BOAT ANGLER

Words and photography by LINDSEY GREEN

Lindsey Green bags up on Devon plaice with light tackle tactics and explains how you can use his predator rig for late spring flatties

SCOURING THE SKERRIES

When I was younger, I had a fascination with flatfish – plaice in particular – that started when I was about 14. I had been chasing dabs for a few years before that but, on this particular day, things were about to change. It was my brother's birthday; since he had to go out, this gave me the opportunity to slip down to Hopes Nose for a few hours of isolated fishing, taking my trusty Woolworths, or Winfield, Beachfisher 12 with me, along with my Garcia-Mitchell 602AP multiplier (remember them?). It was a crisp November day and my anticipation was keen until I took my ragworms from the packet; they looked decidedly unimpressive. I had very little confidence that they would catch so I spent a bit of time foraging and came up with some decent-sized mussels. I also had a few peeler crab claws and legs, which I had saved from a bass trip the day before.

Sliding a claw up the trace before binding on a mussel and tipping the hook with three legs, I cast as far as I could with not much hope of success. I had never used mussels before so regarded the odds with a bit of scepticism. How wrong I was. In just under three hours, I landed 18 dabs, seven of them weighing between 1lb 4 oz and 1lb 11oz, a 2lb 14oz flounder and a 3lb 8oz plaice. I was absolutely buzzing, especially with the plaice, which was, for me, the highlight of the day! Watching it come up through the depths was a sight of which I have never tired.

Sadly, this proved to be a one-off event which, while I had some good days, I was never again able to match. However, some years later, aboard African Queen over the Skerries Banks, I found myself looking at a packet of raw supermarket king prawns, feeling a similar degree of scepticism to the first time that I had used mussels. Oh well, I had been fly-fishing the night before so I still had an ace up my sleeve. And no, it wasn't strips of trout but of launce, the greater sandeel. I had found, quite by accident, that the smallest Red Gills, white in particular, had a great deal of attraction for these predatory fish which, in turn, had a great deal of attraction to plaice. Present the 65mm Red Gill on a sinking line, twitching it slowly along the bottom, and the launce, if they were there, would quickly oblige. I had certainly been lucky and caught nearly a dozen the night before, which would be ample for today's trip since I only ever used three-inch pieces of carefully filleted strips to tip the baits, rather than stick to the more or less conventional squid.

Up to this point, I had always used ragworms, lugworms, peeler crabs and hermit crabs over the Skerries. I had done well but Alan always shook his head over what he regarded as a waste of money when someone produced a packet of supermarket prawns, costing well under a fiver that would last all day. Eventually, since I can sometimes be a creature of habit, often sticking steadfastly to the mantra 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it', I decided to give it a go, matching it to a predator rig on a light, trigger-grip baitcaster. ▶

LIGHT TACKLE TACTICS

Now, while these are much lighter than conventional boat rods, the reason that I use baitcasters is that they are so sensitive and simultaneously so light that the resulting scraps with any fish that you catch are fantastic, as is the bite detection, especially with braid. The trigger also helps to lock your finger around and make the whole outfit more comfortable. I love them and have a range of cheap, medium and more expensive baitcasters in my fishing cupboard, ranging from a two-ounce test curve model to a heavier – though not by much – 6oz version. I match these to palm-sized multipliers – also known as baitcasters – or ABU 5000s loaded with the lightest braid that I can get away with. They work absolutely brilliantly.

THE PREDATOR RIG

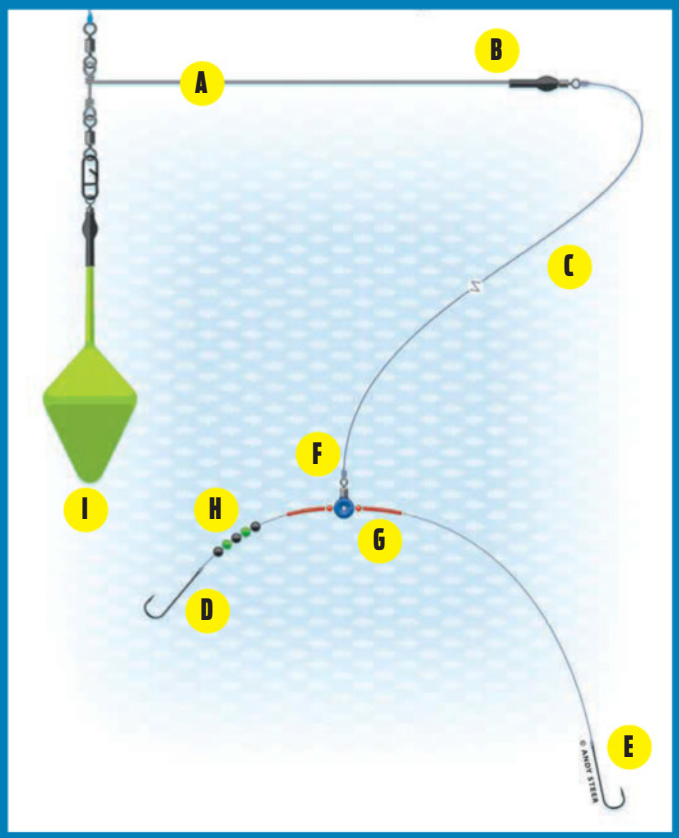
And so does the predator rig. I tied a wishbone rig sliding through either a pulley bead or swivel-tee (which I much prefer). However, my thinking was as follows: Smaller plaice are faster, curious and a little more naïve than their elder brethren. They will chase beads; therefore, if one side of the rig had a short length of trace matched to beads, a smaller hook and appropriate bait, the smaller plaice might chase after it, leaving the way clear for a larger hook, bait and longer trace to catch the attention of their larger, slower relations. It might also, if tipped with launce rather than squid, appeal to anything predatory that might be around at the time. Meanwhile, to keep the proportions correct, I would put some beads and stops tied out of telephone wire (the inner wires) both sides of the swivel tee and screw them down tightly to lock it in place.

Damon and a plaice on baitcaster and predator rig

Geoff with a nice plaice

To keep the tackle flowing straight in the tide, I tied a two-metre length of fluorocarbon to a homemade boom and let it drift back from the boat. I settled down for a bit of a wait, still not entirely trusting the prawns. In the event, I had a fish on within seconds, not a huge one, but good fun nonetheless. Of course, there was the inevitable 'is it there or isn't it?' as the plaice swam happily along the bottom but then, as they always do when they feel themselves being eased away from the ocean floor, the fish began to struggle in earnest. Game on!

That plaice was one of 27 that I caught that day. I kept two or three for eating and returned the rest. Just like the mussels, my scepticism dissipated in the light of success and, since then, I have nearly always taken frozen raw king prawns with me. Of course,



QUICK RELEASE PREDATOR RIG

A. Use a wire boom. Mine are homemade for quick release but you could easily use a standard one with a quick link tied to the trace.
B. Homemade boom wire bent back and held in place by rubber tubing.
C. Two metre 20lb fluorocarbon trace.
D. 2-2/0 Aberdeen hook.
E. 2/0 Aberdeen hook.
F. Swivel tied to mainline with hook trace rinning through the other eye.
G. Stops, such as telephone wire, with beads used to hold the hook lenth in place.
H. Beads above the hook to attract inquisitive plaice.
I. Weight connected by quick release link covered by rubber tubing.

Playing plaice caught on the baitcaster

since old habits die hard, I also often take ragworms or, for preference, lugworms with me, but never so much as in the old days when I used to take at least a pound of each.

Over time, it also became clear that my reasoning behind the predator rig definitely had something in it. I caught turbot, rays – usually small-eyed or blonde – on the hook with no attractors, which also accounted for the occasional smoothhound and spurdog, while I nearly always caught smaller plaice, gurnards and dabs on the side of the beads. Whenever I have had double hook-ups, the larger plaice has always been on the plain side of the tackle. As for the length of the two sides, the beads are on a foot of 30lb fluorocarbon trace while the other side measures around two-and-a-half feet. I used to use launce strips to tip both baits but nowadays use squid strip – I prefer catering squid, which is thicker, cleaner and tougher – on the beaded hook and launce on the other.

When the tide was slow, I used watch leads, changing for Arlesey bombs or pear leads as the tide quickened. Then, one day, I began to wonder about the Shore Cast star leads. Their dragging action on the bottom gave a bit of a different feel to the tackle and the fish that started to come up on them were a bit bigger than their companions. It made me wonder whether two of the edges were creating furrows in the bottom as they were dragged behind the boat. This would kick up more sand, hopefully, attracting the attention of any curious plaice in the immediate vicinity. Of course, it may also have been the colour of the lead or a mixture of both. In the end I decided that, before I could definitively latch on to one idea or the other, I would need to do a bit more research with the result that this is something that I am currently experimenting with.

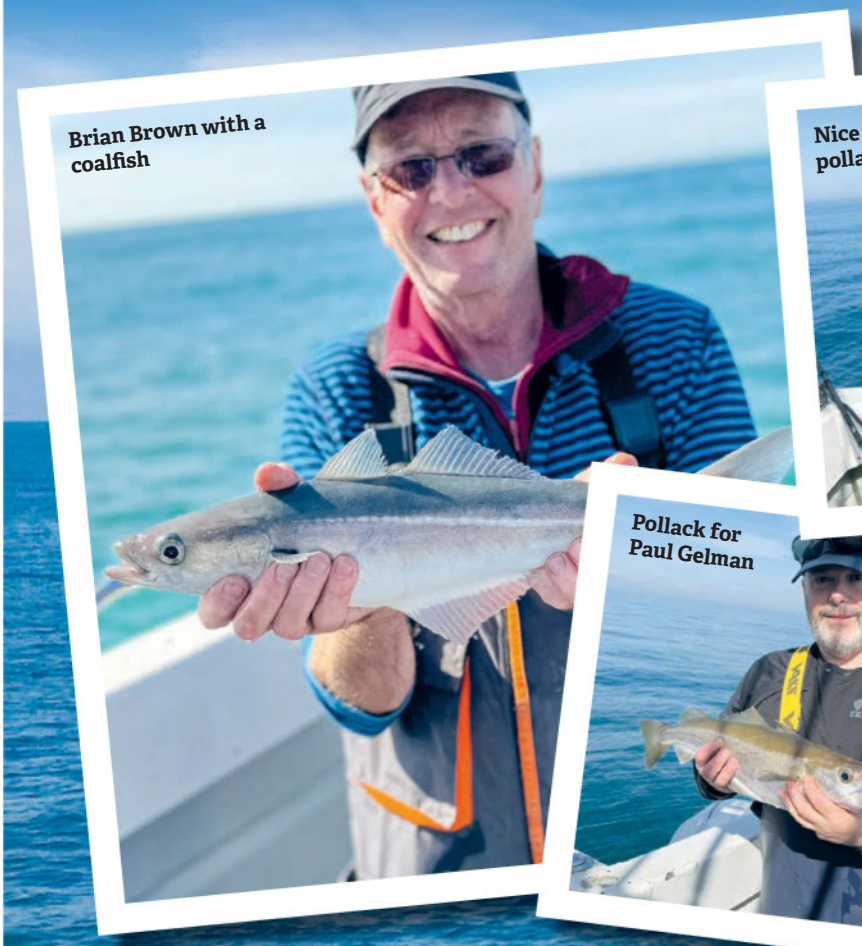
On the one hand, if the sand being kicked up was the attractor, would changing the boom and the angle of the line to the lead accentuate the action? Similarly, would using star leads with luminous coating lend additional attraction, especially if I used an ultraviolet torch to top up the luminosity? If it did, would it render the tackle so plaice specific that catches of other species would drop off altogether? I really would prefer that not to happen. Once you start experimenting, you will always find that there are bound to be other factors cropping up that will need to be investigated. All in all, I can see the coming summer being an interesting time. Perhaps, in the future, I might have a bit more to report, in the meantime, I am going to enjoy solving the puzzle. ■

Michael plays a ray

A nice plaice caught on a baitcaster

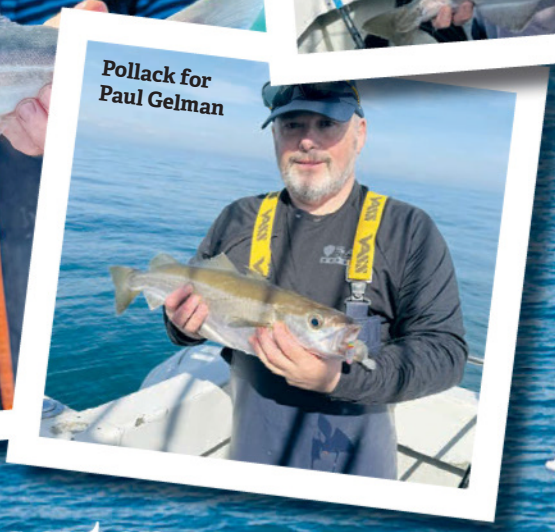
An 8lb blonde ray taken on a 6oz test curve baitcaster

Words and photographs by TIM MACPHERSON



Brian Brown with a coalfish

Nice wreck pollack



Pollack for Paul Gelman

Tim Macpherson goes out on Eastbourne-based charter boat Deep Blue for an early season species challenge with the Hampshire Police angling club

FISHING WITH THE FUZZ

Fishing from Eastbourne is some of the most varied in the channel – and since the Government sanctioned the introduction of a Marine Conservation Zone in a 195km² box from Beachy Head to Hastings, skirting round the now decommissioned Sovereign Lighthouse, the variety and numbers of fish do seem to have improved noticeably.

There are hundreds of private recreational angling boats accessing the area and four charter boats operating from Eastbourne Marina. Two of these boats, Deep Blue and Manx Belle, often operate as a team running species hunting competitions throughout the spring and summer. A variety of fishing clubs and groups come to Eastbourne to take part in these events, and I was lucky enough to get out on one of these with the Hampshire Police Angling Club.

The angling over the two days was split into two targets: plaice and species hunting. For once a weather window opened which allowed the boats to go out. The weather has been so poor since the autumn that boats have struggled to get out much, so it was a relief to be able to go out fishing again.

In the spring-time pollack and plaice are two popular early season targets for anglers – pollack on wrecks to the south of the Sovereign reef and plaice on the wide variety of marks which range between Eastbourne and Hastings. However, we're increasingly finding many more summer species are being caught earlier in the year which makes these early season trips a bit more interesting.

I can remember, until very recently, we'd be lucky to catch a few dabs and pin whiting before March was out, and if the plaice were around they were very thin – things have certainly changed.

THE TWO DAYS OF FISHING

And so, to the fishing. The Hampshire Police Angling Club had booked two days on the water. I was fortunate enough to join them on the second day, which proved to be a glorious early spring day with little or no wind and sunshine - a rarity so far this year. The angling crew on Deep Blue consisted of Andy Simpson, Barry Talbot, Duncan Beck, Paul Gelman, Pete Kerley, Peter Rhymes, Kim Bowden and Tony Smith. Another member of the crew was Simon's dog Oxley, a very well behaved and curious German pointer.

On day one, partly because of the higher wind speed, the anglers concentrated on inshore plaice – with some pretty good results. There are a lot plaice being caught of the local beaches so there was no need for the boats to go more than a couple of miles offshore. In fact, plenty of fish were caught at the Fairway Buoy which marks the entrance to the marina at Eastbourne.

This was something of a surprise bearing in mind all the marine traffic – although I would add there has been a dredger operating in the marina entrance and maybe all the material dumped a little way down the coast might be attracting fish inshore as the mud, containing lots of food no doubt, is washed up the coast with the tide. During the day, all the way from the local pier to Pevensey Shoals, there were plenty of fish to be had by the teams including a coalfish or two from a mark a bit further out.

Day two dawned with, as mentioned, spectacular spring weather and the crew decided they'd like to have a go at catching some early season turbot. The plan was to go to a mark about 14 miles offshore. Called Billy's Banks, it is a range of sandy ridges in 40m of water

Kim with a pollack

discovered some years previously by another local charter skipper. It has been fished hard over the intervening years and isn't as prolific as it once was. However, given the right tides and season it is still productive. It was a bit early in the year, but there are plenty of other fish to be had there and since the trip was a species hunting adventure it was thought to be a risk worth taking – especially with the weather being so favourable.

ANY TURBOT?

We steamed out there with mackerel baits at the ready. Once there, rigs were dropped in high anticipation and fish started to come over the side straight away – but sadly not turbot. Greater weavers and a lot of decent sized whiting dominated the catches along with gurnards. They were coming up at such a rate that it was a job for the crew to keep a proper tally of fish caught.

Both John Little, skipper of Manx Belle, and Simon Logan, Deep Blue's skipper, were keeping scores, although I'm not sure how seriously the anglers were taking the competition. They managed to keep a tab on all the fish coming over the side pretty well. Certainly, Oxley was.

WRECK POLLACK

After a couple of hours of everything but turbot we decided to move inshore to fish on one of the many wrecks which litter the channel off Eastbourne and try for some pollack while there was still enough tide to make it worthwhile. We steamed to a big wreck called the Alunia which lies north west/south west just south east of the Sovereign Shoals. On went the Sidewinders and on the first drift up came the first of many quite reasonable fish – it was good to know they were there, although the size was a good deal smaller than what we have come to expect on these Sussex wrecks at this time of year.

While we were out there a huge shoal of bait fish broke the surface, which we spotted because of the hundreds of gulls and gannet attacking the fish. It was difficult to get too close to them in a big boat so we just watched it develop hoping we'd drift through it to see if there were bass underneath it – in vain as it turned out. This is an unusual sight for March because we don't usually get bait fish in numbers on the surface before May – and the fact that Kim Bowden had caught a mackerel earlier on suggested that because the water temperature has not really dropped to usual winter levels the fish had come up the channel earlier than usual.

REEF FISHING

Nonetheless, it proved very good sport until the tide slackened. At which point we went to the reef on which the now dismantled lighthouse stands. The reef to the south has a wide variety of fish on it including lots of different types of wrasse, pollack and even coalfish. In the couple of hours we drifted over this mark the team carried on catching – including a pollack much bigger than the ones we'd been taking on the Alunia.

INSHORE PLAICE

To finish off Simon steamed inshore and set up a drift a mile or so outside the marina – just beyond the

Carl Harper with a nice plaice

Pete Rhymes with a flounder

waypoint buoy in amongst the dredging soil. It didn't take long for the anglers to start bringing in plaice in numbers interspersed with the odd dab. They are pretty thin and hungry at this time of year and once you start getting amongst them double shots are common place.

In the end the anglers had around 15 species across all these marks – and, remarkably, not a dogfish in sight. It proves how varied the angling can be from Eastbourne – even in the early part of the season. In total there are more than 50 species that can be regularly caught in the seas within 15 miles of Eastbourne: sharks (including threshers and tope) three types of rays, smoothhound, conger, bull huss, turbot, plaice, bass, pollack, coalfish, black bream, plus a wide variety of mini species vital for species matches – and recently even bluefin tuna have been spotted.

There are a number of excellent reefs such as Longshore and the Horse of Willingdon which produce bass and pollack. The Sovereign Shoals produce bream, big wrasse, tope, bull huss, smoothhound and cod, with plaice grounds all along the inshore sandbanks. Numerous wrecks produce pollack, conger, bass and big bream in the autumn, plus the Beachy Head ledge for bass and sometimes cod. As with all marks, the trick is knowing the best drift lines, anchor points and tides. With a little local knowledge it's not difficult to have an excellent day's fishing.

In the end we had a lot of fish and all the anglers got amongst them. A wide variety of rigs were in use: two and three hook paternosters, double hook spreader rigs for plaice, flowing traces on the banks and, of course, sidewinders on the wreck. Many of the anglers were using long Turbetini rods

with fixed spool reels – common match fishing gear – and, as is often the case, these proved more successful than more traditional multipliers on shorter boat rods. The anglers were all very happy with their two days of fishing – and hopefully a good sign for the season to come. The good fishing inside the conservation zone, where trawling is now banned, seems to suggest that introducing these zones does help the fish stocks to flourish.

I'm looking forward to more some excellent fishing during the spring and summer and no doubt we'll be reporting on this more later in the year. ■

Deep Blue is a purpose built and very stable 8.6m AMC catamaran power boat powered by two 200hp Honda petrol engines, capable of speeds up to 30kt. It has provisions for 10 passengers and two crew. There is a marine toilet accessible from the deck.

It is skippered by Geordie angler, Simon Logan, who successfully set up his charter business during 2022, after a career in mechanical engineering, and has attracted a loyal band of anglers. His innovative and imaginative ways of finding new marks, and his ability to quickly learn about existing fishing areas and find new ways to fish them, has served him very well.

For more information or bookings go to Simon's website www.deepbluecharters.co.uk or call 07557411973

Words and photography by TIM MACPHERSON

TIM'S 10-POINT GUIDE

PREPARING YOUR BOAT FOR THE NEW SEASON

As the weather improves and our thoughts turn to getting out to sea again it's important that all anglers check their boats, perform any servicing that's needed and make sure all their safety equipment is up-to-date. Tim Macpherson gives us a handy 10-point guide to the essential checks needed before getting out on the water

The winter months keep most of us off the water. We can't go boat fishing, all we can do is think about it, watch videos, read magazines, books and dream about that big fish.

When we do come out of this the first thing you'll be asking is: is my boat ready for a new season? Every year it's important to do some vital checks on the boat, and so here are a few tips to follow including advice on safety equipment you will need. Some of this is relevant to smaller dinghy owners, some of it to all boaters. Whatever kind of boat you have, make sure you run through the check list to ensure you enjoy your angling in 2024.

1. CHECKING THE HULL, CLEANING AND TIDYING UP THE DECK

If your boat is on a trailer or parked in a beach compound it's not a natural state for any boat to be in over any significant period of time. Although no lasting damage will result, it's always worth giving it the once over to check for any damage, chips to the gelcoat, worn out or loose fixings and, of course, check the keel. Launching and landing is particularly hard on the transom and the stern and very often the fibreglass can wear thin and become porous, thus making leaks hard to detect. The keel band might need some attention, screws come loose and binding perishes. If your boat is in a marina it might need a keel scrub. Even in winter sitting in a marina it will attract some wildlife. Excessive algae build up causes keel-drag and an increase in fuel consumption. Get the boat lifted out, scrubbed and re apply anti-foul. You can do this yourself to save money, but unless you are confident and skilled in carrying this out get a professional to do it for you.

It is always worth making sure all the past season's rubbish is removed: rusty hooks in the sump if it's open, bits of discarded line and so on. Give the deck a scrub – even if you do this routinely after a fishing session and, if appropriate, re-apply non-stick flooring material.

2. ENGINE

Your engine is your life saver and you should always treat it as such. After sitting for any length of time on a mooring, on the beach or a trailer the engine will need a clean out to remove any salt build up. At the very least, make sure it's well flushed through and the oil filter changed if necessary. Better still, give your engine a proper service, changing the impeller and cleaning out the carburettors.

3. FUEL LINES

Leaving rubber pipes at the mercy of the elements will result in gradual degradation of the material they're made of – plus the attachments to the tanks and outboard input need checking. Air locks can form from badly-maintained or connected fuel lines, causing engines to cut out or not start properly. You don't want the engine faltering when you're in a marine lock!

4. THE BATTERY

There is nothing worse than taking the cover off after the winter, getting all excited about going fishing, only to find the battery has given up. This is easily remedied, of course, but if you are planning a trip, it's worth checking a couple of days beforehand in case they need charging, or even replacing.

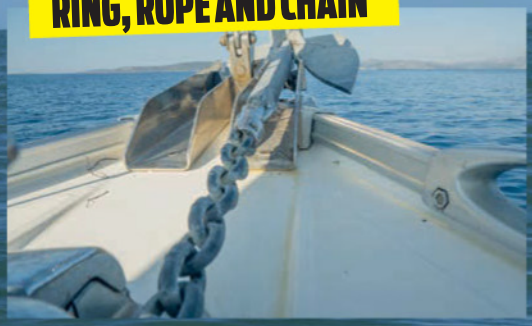
5. STEERING AND CONTROL BOX

If you have helm steering on your boat, check the steering from the wheel to the engine to make sure there are no corroded pressure points which might result in failure. Many outboards with fitted remotes do not have tillers which makes it very hard to steer when the helm fails. I've had steering cables fail at the start of the season and it's not funny. Sea water can find its way into the cable sleeve and, over time, this will corrode the steel cable itself, with predictable results. The same goes for the control box on an open dinghy, Check the cables aren't corroded at the junctions, make sure it's still well secured and the screws retain their strength and can be removed easily if at any stage they need to be changed. Also, check the ignition and make sure the key isn't bent or corroded. It's always worth getting a spare organised just in case. We were 20 miles off the Irish coast one year and the key snapped because we'd neglected it – fortunately we did have a spare on board – so check the key.

6. TOOLS

Check your toolbox and make sure it has got everything you need in the event of a breakdown at sea. Mole grips, spark-plug spanners, spare spark plugs, insulation tape, spanners, screw drivers, WD40, spare keys, spare bungs, wire and other useful implements. If they've been exposed to the sea air then just check they haven't seized up or corroded. I have very rarely had to use any of my tools but there is always that one time.

7. ANCHOR, ALDERNEY RING, ROPE AND CHAIN



Anchors should last forever (or they should do if you don't accidentally throw them overboard) but just check all the links are OK, that you have enough material for trips (I use cable ties) and that there is enough rope and that the anchor chain is enough for the size of the boat and the weight of the anchor.

8. ELECTRONICS

The most vulnerable part in our boats: saltwater and sea air are particularly cruel on marine electronics – even if they are in a cabin. Many fishfinder-plotters are removable for security reasons but this will leave the cradle vulnerable to corrosion through fallow times. It is always worth checking all the major cables; quite often you can't see any obvious reason why the circuits are not working. Check the terminals haven't perished – if there is a build-up of copper oxide on the terminals then clean and grease the leads.

If you have your boat out of water in a marina and have an external transom mounted transducer then take the opportunity to check the fittings and wiring for any damage.

Make sure your radio is functioning properly and the aerial is fixed properly and don't forget to update your Navionics app on your plotter to make sure you've got the most up-to-date charts and version of relief shading.

9. FIRST AID

Hooks, gaffs, bait knives and if you're lucky enough to catch one, fish with sharp teeth, are all going to be encountered in small boat fishing and all have the capability of inflicting a nasty wound, especially in the unstable environment of a rocking boat. Always carry a basic first aid kit on board equipped with a variety of plasters, bandages, wound pads, antiseptic, painkillers and a foil survival blanket. Make sure you keep them clean and dry in a watertight plastic container. It's also worthwhile familiarising yourself with some basic first aid skills or even attending a formal training course.

A lot of this is pretty obvious but it still all needs going through and checking. Going to sea in a faulty boat or with a faulty engine or with no functioning safety kit is hazardous. If we break down then someone else has to risk their life to come to the rescue, whether that is the RNLI or fellow club members. Besides, we all want to be ready for that first competition of the year!

10. SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Probably the most important part of your check list: lifejackets, flares, compasses.

Number one and most important of all the checks is the lifejackets which need servicing on a regular basis. The local RNLI will often do this for boat angling clubs, checking their integrity and checking and changing the canisters of automatic inflatable ones. Often lifejackets are left on boats in cabins or tucked away in boxes, so they need checking regularly and particularly after a long winter break. They degrade and can even fall foul of rodents making nests and chewing holes in them. I tend to have two spare jackets in a watertight bag and always bring two with me which I will use.

Modern automatically inflating waistcoat types are compact, comfortable to wear and don't hinder you when fishing – you probably won't notice you're wearing them. Submersion activates a carbon dioxide cylinder to inflate the jacket. Most are fitted with a manual inflation cord, top up blow tube, a whistle and a flashing light. This design of jacket should be worn with the straps tensioned to fit snugly and also fitted with crotch straps to ensure it doesn't ride up over the wearer's head.

With radios, mobile phones, and emergency position systems, carrying flares is not quite such an important safety requirement anymore; however, you should always carry them and make sure they are up-to-date and working. Hopefully you'll never need them but you can make sure they are still viable by checking the sell-by dates.

Life buoy: Should you encounter a man overboard (MOB) situation, it is very useful to be able to deploy a secondary floatation device. A foam horseshoe and a floating rescue line are useful, simple and cheap devices and could prove invaluable.

Fire extinguisher: Often forgotten, but the importance of carrying a fire extinguisher is underrated. For boats under 25ft a dry powder extinguisher of at least 0.6kg volume is OK (mounted on a suitable bracket and easily accessible). Read the instructions and familiarise yourself with its operation before a fire actually occurs. Fire extinguishers should be replaced after about five years.

Audible Warning Device: Useful to warn another craft of your whereabouts or intentions. An electric car thorn and switch can be easily fitted or alternatively a hand-held signal horn powered by a cylinder of compressed gas.

Radar reflector: If you intend fishing in areas of busy boat traffic, particularly if you fish anywhere near a shipping lane, then you need to be seen, especially when light and weather conditions make visibility poor. Fitting a reflector to your boat should make you more visible to vessels that have a radar facility. We use a steel bridge which carries lights, aerial and rod holders and they stand out which improves visibility.

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Words and pictures
DAVE LEWIS

DAVE'S DIARIES

STORIES FROM A LIFETIME OF ANGLING

KEEP FILM'LING'!

Dave Lewis recalls a record-breaking trip to fish for Danish cod with legendary TV angler and Go Fishing host John Wilson

A sharp reduction in engine revs stirred me from a deep sleep and with bleary eyes I glanced at my watch; it was a little after six in the morning. Half climbing, half falling out of my comfortable cocoon, I stumbled my way across a mountain of fishing and camera equipment, making my way towards the vertical wooden ladder providing access to the deck above, and made my way to the port gunwale. There I took several deep breaths in an attempt at purging the rank odour of stale fish, sweat and the inevitable whiff of diesel from below decks that had been almost overwhelming. A snap of frost hung in the still air, this being late September, but thankfully the sky was clear and just as we had been promised, the strong norwester in which we had sailed had blown itself out. We were set for a beautifully calm and clear day.

I was aboard the Danish charter boat 'Thailand,' a substantial 70ft, 30 year old ex-trawler that could accommodate some 50 anglers, though thankfully on this occasion there were a 'mere 30' of us aboard. I had joined John Wilson and his crew to film an episode of his classic TV series Go Fishing; the plan being to show the viewers the massive cod that at the time could be caught from The Yellow Reef, a famous fishing area that consists of a high plateau located on the edge of the Norwegian Deep.

The origins of this trip were several months previous when I had been invited to join John on an exploratory trip to sample the sea fishing in Denmark. On the first day John and I had boarded a 16ft dinghy at the Seven Islands resort where we were based. Just minutes after sailing into open water our guide eased back the throttle and told us to rig lures he provided, which we were going to troll. Neither John nor I were thrilled at the prospect of a boat ride around The Baltic dragging lures. We had been told that we would be fishing for cod and sea trout, yet a glance over the side revealed we were currently running in less than 5m of crystal clear water, conditions that might well be suitable for sea trout, but surely not cod? Within minutes of starting to fish the tip of my rod started to bounce, I had indeed hooked a fish.

"You know this actually feels like a cod nodding on the end," I confessed to John and sure enough a few minutes later a fin perfect 3-4lb codling came to the surface, a five inch silver and lime green lure hanging from its mouth. John caught his first fish, the twin of mine, not long afterwards, and within no time at all we managed to boat around a dozen fish of a similar stamp; yet still almost everywhere we fished the bottom remained clearly visible.

We started to experiment using different lures selected at random from the enormous collection John had brought with him, but each and every type or colour lure we used was very quickly taken by a cod. Finally, after a couple of hours fishing I hooked a fish that immediately felt different, which was confirmed by the angle of my line showing the fish was swimming just below the surface; this was clearly no bottom-hugging cod. Moments later the fish took to the air in the first of several head-over-tail twisting leaps. I had hooked a sea trout which I successfully boated after a short but spirited fight. Not long afterwards John caught another.

We fished over the next few days both afloat and from the beach, catching plenty of codling and a few more sea trout, but soon enough my trip was at an end. John had decided to stay on for a few extra days, during which he would travel to Hanstholm to fish off the Yellow Reef, an area where several anglers we had spoken to confirmed still produced the really big cod we had hoped to catch. A week later John phoned me and delivered the news that, despite having to fish in absolutely atrocious weather, the party of anglers he had joined had done very well, catching many fish in excess of 20lb with the biggest cod of the day weighing what at the time was an incredible

"My concentration was split between not losing the fish and trying to remember if my shirt was tucked in and if I had brushed my hair; after all, my mum would eventually watch this performance!"

42lb. He explained he was planning to return with his film crew later in the year. Would I like to join him?

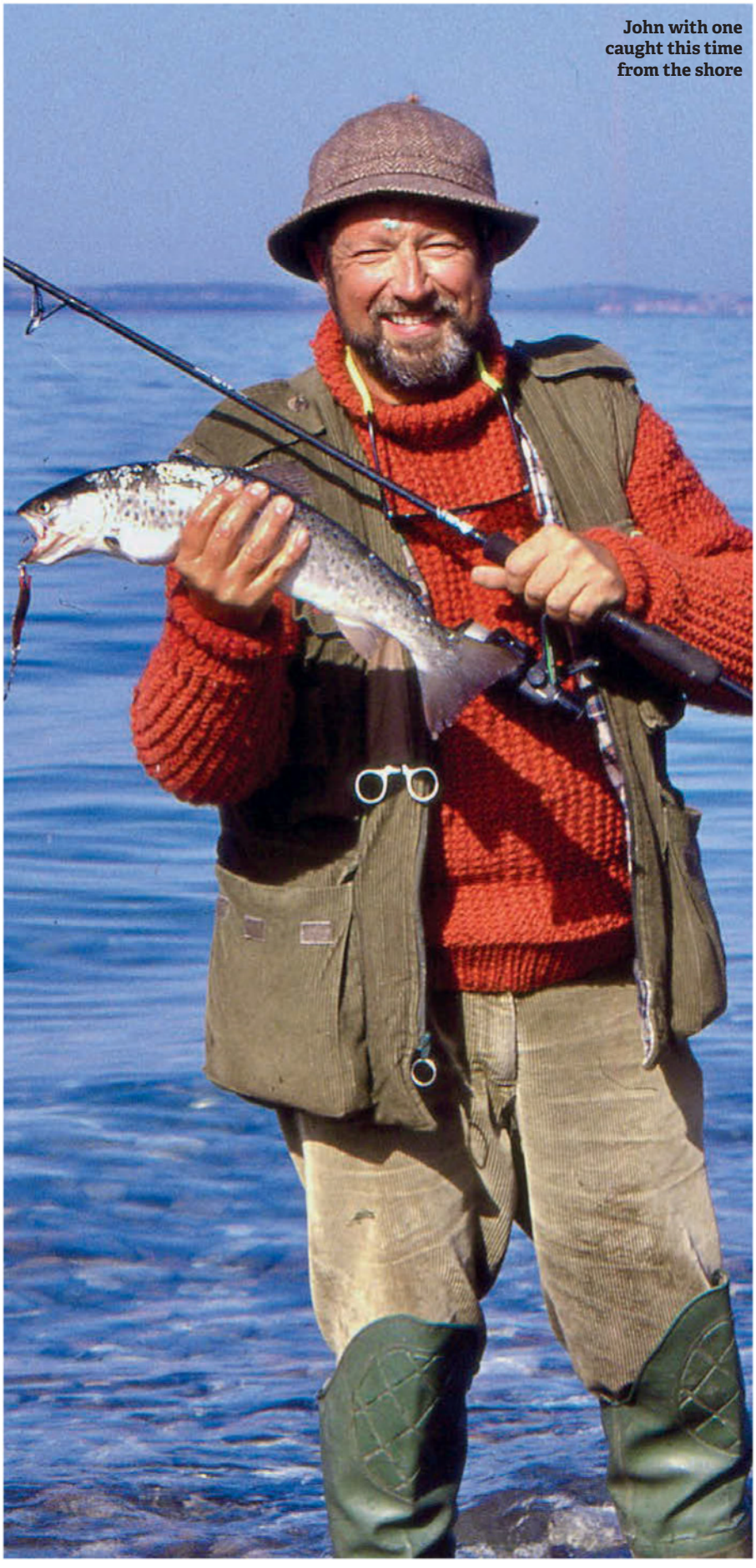
YELLOW REEF

Fast forward to that morning over the Yellow Reef. Before we did anything John and I were each rigged up with a sound mike to ensure that we were ready to record. Despite the early hour and lack of sleep John was his usual jovial self, and with over 50 episodes of Go Fishing behind him at the time, he seemed to take the whole thing in his stride. I, on the other hand, was as tense as a drum skin. I was terrified of making a stupid mistake on camera, and even more scared of actually blanking. Everything that happened aboard Thailand today was going to be captured on film and, as such, open to full scrutiny from the merciless angling community when this episode was aired in the new series of Go Fishing.

The first area of the reef we fished failed to produce anything other than small

Trolling lures for sea trout

Dave with a codling from the crystal clear waters



John with one caught this time from the shore

codling and coalfish. After less than half an hour fishing the skipper called for lines up, announcing that we were heading further north to fish a wreck. It was an hour's run and when we arrived and started fishing Paul Martingell, John's partner and producer, decided that with such excellent light conditions, now would be a good time to film the introduction to the programme. John started off in his well-established style, rod in hand while I was fishing next to him, almost willing a fish to grab my pirk!

The timing of our first big fish could not have been better. John was getting on with his piece to camera and introducing me along the lines of, "Here we are in Denmark," when his rod bent double, followed by that immortal Go Fishing phrase: "I'm in, ho, ho!" Soon afterwards I hooked up and the cameras swung on me as I slowly worked my fish up through the water column. My concentration was split between not losing the fish and trying to remember if my shirt was tucked in and if I had brushed my hair; after all, my mum would eventually watch this performance!

John kept the dialogue between us alive, instinctively knowing when I was starting to dry up and before too long my fish could be seen, its white belly visible in the clear water while still many metres beneath the surface. Soon afterwards it broke the surface where a crewman swiftly secured it with a gaff, and swung aboard. The sensation of relief was overwhelming, not only had I caught a fish on camera, but it was a good one, a very good one: over 20lb of prime North Sea cod, a new personal best for the species, and John's first fish had been a similar size. Next drop I caught its twin making it almost 50lb of cod in two drops. Elsewhere around the boat a couple of 30 pounders had been boated ensuring Paul and the rest of the crew were kept very busy. At the time this was truly exceptional fishing with this being some of the best big cod action ever caught on film. Remember, this was a full decade before British anglers started travelling to Norway.

DEEPER WATER

Not long after I had caught my second cod the skipper decided to head further out to try and find an even more productive wreck. About an hour later a short blast on Thailand's fog horn signalled it was again time to start fishing. I watched my 17oz silver Norwegian pirk drop down through the depths. The water over this mark was much deeper than we had fished so far, well over 100m, and it took the heavy lure what seemed like an age to get all the way down, before finally I felt a gentle tap confirming it had reached the seabed.

Throwing the reel back into gear I started to work the lure and immediately my rod was all but ripped out of my hands. "I'm in," I yelled, and seconds later two cameras were pointing at me. Then I felt the sickening sensation of my fish snag amongst the wreckage and the line broke, my heart sank. Frantically I wound the remaining line back, cut off the last five yards which were badly frayed from contact with the wreck, tied on another pirk, and dropped it over the side. John was consoling me about the loss of what clearly had been a very good fish when once again the second I started to work my lure I had an identical, if not even more powerful, arm-wrenching take. This time I worked the fish really hard, determined to force it up into clear water above the wreck. After a few minutes I knew I was playing the fish in open water and was safe from getting snagged up. I remember relaxing enough to actually enjoy the fight.

Throughout the fight my 50lb class boat rod remained bent almost double, and I was convinced that I had hooked into a monster of a cod. John was as excited as I was. We both gave a running commentary of the fight throughout which the fish thumped solidly away, occasionally taking line in an attempt at diving back down to the wreck, reinforcing my initial view that I had indeed hooked a big cod. Then an angler fishing not far away from me boated a good ling, and I started having doubts about the identity of what I had hooked.

Paul was directing the two cameramen as to which angles he needed them to shoot, while telling me which way to face. If everyone gets the chance of a few minutes of fame in their life, then this was certainly mine! By now everyone aboard knew that I was bringing up something really special, and many had stopped fishing and moved to our side of the boat to see what it was I. As the first glimpse of my fish appeared below me we could see that it was indeed huge. "It's a big ling," John shouted, "a monster ling!" At first I was almost disappointed as I had so dearly wanted it to be a really big cod, but then I saw the size of it.

Only when the gaff went in and the fish was swung over the gunnels and slammed onto the wooden deck could the true size of my fish be appreciated. For about 10 minutes I posed while struggling to hold my fish for Paul and John, who needed to be absolutely certain they had all of the shots they needed for their program. Then the boats skipper, Tommy, appeared on deck with a set of scales. After carefully zeroing these and weighing the fish on several occasions he announced that it weighed 22kg, just under 50lb. I had caught a new Danish record. Both John and Paul were bubbling with excitement as ever since day one of Go Fishing they had wanted to break a record on the programme and now they had, and I had caught the fish! ■

Dave with the Danish record ling caught on camera with John and the Go Fishing team

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Words and Photography by DAVE LEWIS

RED GURNARD

UK & IRELAND SPECIALIST SPECIES HUNTING

Dave Lewis looks into the habitat, tackle and tactics needed to tick the red gurnard off your 2024 species tally

Red gurnard are found in the eastern Atlantic Ocean ranging from southern Scotland, and very occasionally Norway, south to Mauritania, including the Madeira, the Azores and the Canary Islands. They are also found throughout the Mediterranean. They are typically caught in depths ranging from 50ft to over 1000ft, although their usual range is 100-800ft. Favoured habitat includes a seabed consisting of sand or gravel, especially sand and shingle banks, although red gurnards are occasionally caught over rocky or even muddy ground. The British record is held by a fish caught at Falmouth in 2011; it weighed just over 3lb 2oz.

Tub gurnard are often wrongly identified as being red gurnard as both species are predominantly red in colour. With a little experience accurately distinguishing between these two species should not be a problem: the colouration of a red gurnard tends to be a far more vivid shade of red than a tub gurnard. The defining feature of a tub gurnard is a lilac fringe to the outer edge of the pectoral fins with, occasionally, a blue eye type spot in the centre of the pectoral.

Productive areas to target red gurnard include the south-west of the UK, notably the Cornish Peninsula, The Channel Islands, West Wales and the south and west coast of Ireland. These are one of those species that are more often than not caught as a bycatch when targeting other species, but it is possible to tune your approach to increase the chance of catching one to add to your species list.

TACTICS

Baited feathers are a technique that appears to have fallen from favour with many anglers in recent years. As crude as they might seem, a string of feathers, or their many modern alternatives, fished with a thin strip of fish, usually mackerel, on each hook, are tremendous fish catchers. Baited feathers are usually fished on the drift which is the ideal way to locate gurnard which tend to lie more or less stationary on the seabed, waiting for the tide to deliver their next meal.

If fishing baited feathers does not appeal, then fishing a single hook rigged below a small spoon and a few colourful beads in conjunction with a light rod is a more sporting option. Once again, the general technique is to fish on the drift, the objective being to cover ground and locate fish. Despite their very small size gurnard have a large mouth that will usually engulf their prey in one gulp This transmits to a distinct thump on the rod tip to which the angler should react by lifting the rod to set the hook. Red gurnard can also be caught on lures. Often they are caught on unbaited feathers, Sabikis and Hokeye type lures, and I have seen several caught on artificial sandeels and shad-type soft plastics.

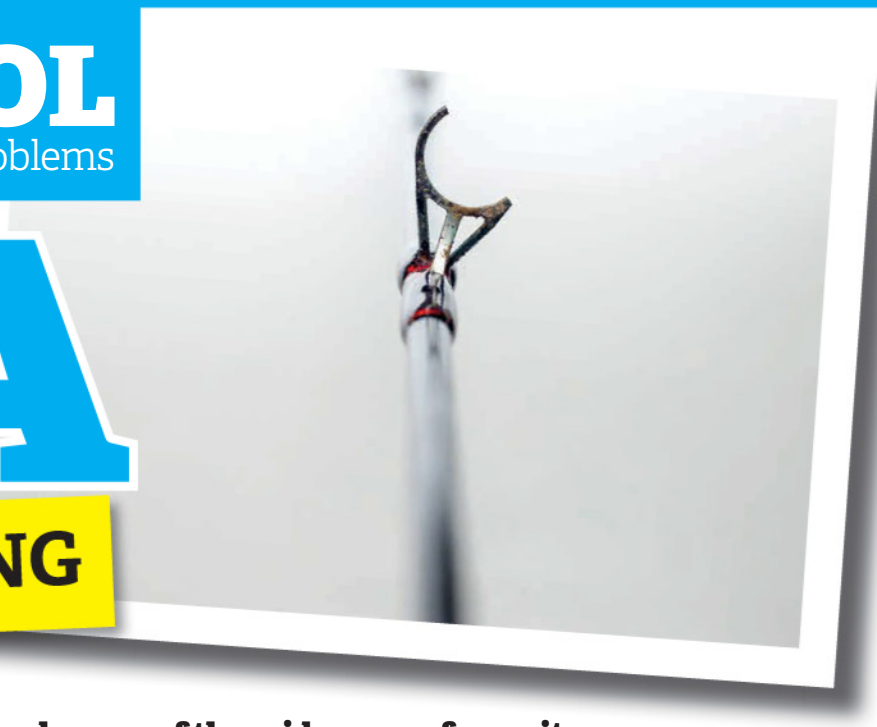
Red gurnard are occasionally caught by shore anglers. The sort of marks that are likely to be productive are areas such as rocky points or harbour breakwaters that allow the angler to cast into relatively deep water over the sort of ground as detailed above. Effective baits are, again, fish, though squid, crab, shellfish and worm baits will also work. ■

SEA SCHOOL

Our experts solve your fishing problems

Q&A

SHORE ANGLING



ASK THE EXPERTS

When sending your question, please remember to include your name and address

CHRIS KENNEDY

Chris is a specimen hunting specialist based on Sark and answers shore fishing questions.

DAVE LEWIS

Based in Newport, South Wales, our contributing editor Dave answers boat fishing questions.

DAVID MITCHELL

David is Sea Angler's editor and is an expert on sea angling policy and conservation.

HENRY GILBEY

Angler, blogger and photo-journalist Henry, based in Cornwall, is our lure expert.

BEN BASSETT

The Plymouth angler and blogger will provide answers on the sport of light rock fishing (LRF), the go-anywhere tactic.

BRIAN PASK

Brian is a qualified sea angling coach and casting tutor who works with young people and experienced anglers to improve their fishing skills.

Q I have broken one of the guides on my favourite beachcaster. Is it worth paying a rod builder or shop to fix it for me, or is it something I can do myself?

BEN HOPKINS, TRURO

CK says: I think the rod builders would be grateful for the work. Many do a very professional job, similar or identical to a factory finish when applying a new guide (ring). It depends how much it is as to whether it would be economical to do it yourself.

You'll need to whip and varnish the new guide. I have done it myself in the past, and it doesn't look perfect, but the fish don't care and it works! My advice is to check with a shop or builder and work out the exact cost.

Q I have just bought a second-hand drone. I have seen videos abroad of anglers dropping the baits out far beyond casting ranges. Is it worth trying this anywhere in the UK?

MAX LIPTON, SURREY

CK says: I have seen anglers trying this from some of the UK's beaches and there are a lot of considerations. Please check the drone regulations and relevant rules for the area you are thinking of flying in. As to whether this will bring you more fish, is an unanswerable question with lots of variables. Firstly, you'll need to figure out how to hang the bait on the drone, and make it come free (drop off) at long range. You're going to need a lot of line on your reels. In my opinion it's going to be best to choose a venue that shelves off into a depth, and that has a relatively clean seabed. You do not want to get snagged with 300 yards plus of line out in the sea. You also do not want to choose a venue or moon cycle with lots of tide, as this will be dragging your bait one way or another. You also need to think about boat traffic or other people using this expanse of sea, as a busy seaside area is fraught with issues caused by swimmers, kayakers and small boat owners. With all of the challenges above, this method may be an advantage if trying to find tope, common skate, blonde rays, plaice, cod and other species at some venues. You might also just find more dogfish, and it's a heck of a lot of winding in! My advice is to think it through thoroughly if you are to attempt it.

Q I have just retired early and I have the opportunity to travel a bit more this year and would love to catch a blonde ray. I am Hampshire based, where would you advise I go?

ALAN WEBB, FAREHAM

CK says: I have heard of blondes being caught in West Sussex, as well as Hampshire, very rarely, and the Isle of Wight. I think Dorset's Chesil Beach might offer you the best chance at the Cove end of the huge shingle beach (Weymouth end). It often takes a decent cast there. If you really want an adventure, South Wales may be the best bet where they are more abundant. Devon and the Bristol Channel throw them up too. The research is half of the fun. The best quality frozen sandeels may just be your best bait. Good luck.

Q I am just about to treat myself and buy a new set of Vass waders. Is it better to choose studded or unstudded? I have only used unstudded when buying other brands in the past.

PETER THORNE, WREXHAM

CK says: My best advice would be to choose based on the type of ground you are fishing on. If you are wading over clean sand, then you will not need the extra grip provided by the metal studs. If you are clambering over wet rocks, slate ledges and need that grip, then the studs are a must for traction and safety reasons.

HOW TO ASK US A QUESTION

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SEA SCHOOL

Our experts solve your fishing problems

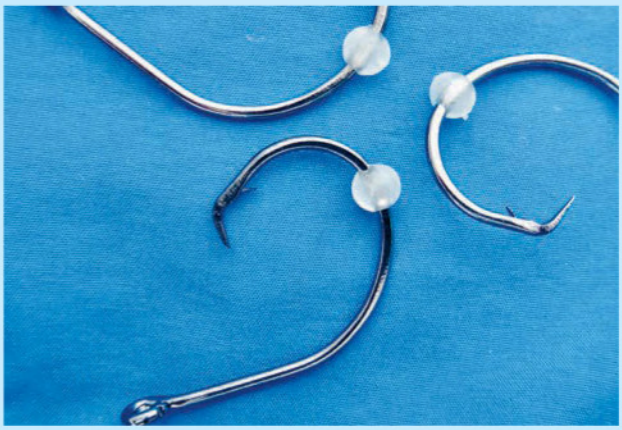
Q&A

BOAT ANGLING

Q When using live Joeys to try and catch my first tope I often reel in an empty hook. Do you have any tips to stop this happening and thus avoid wasting valuable fishing time?

CRAIG ELLIS, WREXHAM

DL says: Try using a small rubber bead threaded onto the bend of the hook, as shown, then hook the livebait followed by a second bead to secure the bait on the bend of the hook. Provided the beads fit snuggly onto the hook they will secure the bait perfectly. Soft rubber beads are available in most tackle shops; you'll find them in the carp or coarse fishing section.



Q Are shore based LRF tactics and techniques effective from a boat.

ROGER MARTINS, MERSEYSIDE

DL says: They most certainly are. In many areas a boat is ideal for accessing a wide range of different types of terrain, usually much more easily than on foot. Calm conditions tend to be the best; these will allow you to get really close to rock edges, pier sanctions, breakwaters and very shallow ground, into the perfect position for presenting lures and baits to a multitude of different species.

Q Why do so many anglers use brightly coloured lines when fishing in clear water. Surely fish can see these and will be deterred by them?

ALLAN MILES, LONDON

DL says: Coloured lines are used because they allow the skipper and anglers to see exactly where each line is positioned. This is especially important when trolling. While the lines themselves are coloured, they almost always terminate in some sort of leader, which is often clear monofilament or fluorocarbon. The bait or lure is attached to the end of this so it will be 20ft or more away from the coloured line.

Q My angling experience is mostly in freshwater where quiver tips are commonly used for bite indication when ledgering. My local tackle shop now stocks saltwater boat rods with a selection of quiver tips. What is the purpose of these?

MIKE MCCAFFERTY, NORFOLK

DL says: In recent years quiver tips have become increasingly popular with boat anglers, especially those who fish competitions. In exactly the same was as when fishing in freshwater, these provide very sensitive bite detection. Rods designed for this sort of work are generally supplied with a selection of tips, each intended for use with different amounts of weight, and they are surprisingly strong!

Q I have recently bought my first small, trailered boat. How do I know when it is too rough to fish in safety?

NEIL HENDERSON, KENT

DL says: I suggest you arrange some basic boat handling training before you venture out to sea. The RYA Level 2 course is the perfect starting point for sea anglers. For your first season or two I recommend you only fish when the weather and sea conditions are as close to ideal as possible. Even then, as soon as you start to worry that conditions might be starting to deteriorate either move to a more sheltered mark or cut your trip short. Whenever possible, try and fish in close proximity with other boats. Experience will come with time. Small boat fishing is very much a case of not trying to run before you can walk!

Q I love mullet fishing, but always fish from the shore. What is the best way to catch thick lipped mullet from a boat?

PAT MOFFATT, SOMERSET

DL says: Most mullet anglers are shore based but a boat can be a very useful tool for accessing, and catching, these hard-fighting fish. Location is the key to success. Mullet are common in many harbours, marinas and river estuaries, but be aware of any fishing restrictions. Having located fish you need to get them feeding and groundbaiting with a mash of bread and fish scraps that will attract and, hopefully, hold fish in the area you are fishing. Float fishing exactly as you do from the shore is often the most effective technique.

Q&A

LURE FISHING

Q What are your tactics for bass fishing when the water is really coloured? TONY SHARPE, MID WALES

HG says: If there is one thing in bass fishing that I am not really a fan of, it's coloured water. This is a lot to do with a bit of a lack of confidence though. The open coast around me colours up with a strong onshore blow, resulting in the water tending to fill up with weed. It's a double-edged sword, but in winter there is far less weed around and I have managed to catch a few bass by dedicating myself to trying to get better at dealing with coloured water.

Aside from using brighter lures (white and chartreuse, for example), and either choosing lures with a decent rattle or adding a glass rattle to soft plastics, there seems to be a general theory that when the water is coloured it can help by fishing your lures close to or on the bottom. There are a few thoughts around this and it seems to make a lot of sense. However, if the water is full of weed then you can't really fish it in any easy way.

Bearing in mind that my experience of catching bass from more coloured water is not extensive, I do often find myself turning to some sort of paddletail. I like how that tail literally "thumps" in the water, and I also like the variety these lures can give me. Take a paddletail on a jig head, like the Fiiish Black Minnow or the Savage Gear Savage Minnow, and now you have a soft plastic which you can successfully work along the bottom. Bump it, sink and draw with it, swim it nice and slow and deep; I really fancy all those vibrations from the tail to help draw bass in when the visibility is reduced.

I have tried a fair bit with very 'splashy' surface lures in more coloured water, but my success rates have not been good. It makes logical sense to me to fish like this, but I feel far more confident fishing with white soft plastics or paddletails which I can then work at different depths. Another technique starting to gain traction as a way for combatting coloured water in estuaries is to fish with creature baits which are essentially imitating crabs. Bass obviously love eating crabs, so watch this space!

Q I've started trying out Cheb weights; what are the best hooks to use with them?

CARL KNIGHT, WEST SUSSEX

HG says: I really like the flexibility that Cheb weights give me for swimming soft plastics such as the Savage Gear Slender Scoop Shad, plus, of course, the ability to change weights to work a lure along the bottom or deal with heavier seas or faster currents. Logic says that conventional weedless, offset or Texas hooks work the best with how a Cheb weight is designed to be rigged – the way the eye sits suits a Cheb weight – but I really like the swimbait style of weedless hooks because that corkscrew makes it so easy to rig lures and it helps them last longer as well.

However, the angle of the eye on a swimbait hook now presents a problem with how a Cheb weight sits. I asked around on my Facebook page and somebody kindly suggested I clip a split ring onto the eye of my swimbait hook – problem solved! Now I can use my favourite hooks with these really handy weights and everything sits in line.

Q What do I need to look for in a good bass mark?

GARY DAVIS, WILTSHIRE

HG says: The million-dollar question! One thing I have learnt so much about bass fishing, compared to when I started, is how incredibly widespread they are; for this reason there can't really be a typical bass mark, as such. I had no idea how varied it could be when you target bass on lures. But if we are going to generalise a bit then you want to be looking for rough, shallow ground out on the open coast. Use your local knowledge with a mix of Google Maps. Avoid really deep water and instead look for big patches of rocks, boulders and reefs. Bass are incredible predators and they are very adept at using shallow water to hunt for food. Don't be put off by rocks and weed sticking out of the water, indeed the more cover and rough ground there is the better. Look for channels and gullies which the bass can use to ambush their prey. Shallow reefs, though, are only one of the many types of bass marks you can go looking for. An open mind is essential.

Q&A

LIGHT ROCK FISHING

Q Does LRF deploy different hook patterns in the same way as traditional bait fishing, and is the choice of hook style rather than size alone a key factor in picking out specific species?

ALBERT FERRIS, LANCASTER

BB says: The answer is yes, although the differences can often be subtle. The biggest difference in hook patterns would be when micro fishing, using Tanago hooks from Japan. These miniscule hooks are shaped like a tiny 'j', with the hook point just visible at the end of the bend. For larger species like mackerel, there are Aji hooks. These look like they have been bent outwards, but they are designed to bed into the hard roof of the fish's mouth, instead of the thin skin on the sides. There are others of course too, such as shorter shank J hooks suitable for Dropshotimg, and longer shanks ideal for rigging worm style lures. It's an interesting rabbit hole of different options you can dive into.

Q When using ultra-light rods, how important is it to stick to the maximum line weight? If my rod says max 3lb and I used 6lb line could it mean the rod breaks before the line?

DONNY MIDAS, BRISTOL

BB says: High-end Japanese rods almost always have a line and weight rating marked on their blanks. This is to guide the owner into using the optimum rated breaking strain line and lure weight for the rod. Unless you are using line that is well above the recommended strength, and even then only if your drag is locked tight, would you risk snapping your rod. LRF is all about feel and finesse, so if your rod recommends 3lb max, that is telling you that if you use those ultra-light weights, you will be using the rod the way it was designed. It can be confusing though, as some rods will still fish well above their stated casting weight, while others will turn into a useless noodle before it. However, get the balance right and your high-end rod will be well worth the money.

Q I've been wondering how to go about targeting rockling with LRF tactics on rocky groynes?

DANNY CARTER, DORSET

BB says: The three most common rockling species around the UK, shore, five beard and three beard, all prefer areas with shelter, especially during the day. So rocky groynes, placed on beaches to minimise longshore drift, are perfect. To fish them though can be very tricky, as the groynes are often slippery and unstable, so I recommend caution and sensible footwear. But if you can get on them while there is water around the boulders, there will be fish in between the gaps, which should be willing to take a small, scented lure lowered to them. Try with 2-inch sections of artificial worms like Gulp or Isome first, rigged on Dropshot, Cheb or Jigheads and a size 10 or 12 hook. Fish slowly, with plenty of pauses, and you should get bites. Just try and avoid bright, sunny days as rockling are semi-nocturnal.

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BEST LAID PLANS...

What does a sea angling coach actually do? We join **Brian Pask** taking a new client, Darren, out for his first session on a beach

My sessions usually start with questions: When does the client want to meet? Am I available? Is the tide any good and can the client arrive at a time to get the best out of the tide? What fishing experience, if any, does the client have? The age of the client when young people are involved is important – this allows me to ensure I have the right rods when we fish. Finally, what does the client want to get out of the session?

This gives me the necessary information to plan the session so that the client gets the best out of it. I need to have Plan A, Plan B, Plan C and be prepared that on the day, Plan D will probably be needed!

Speaking to Darren on the phone, I discovered he was an Australian living in London. He used to fish off the rocks with his brother as a young man and had promised himself to start beach fishing as a release from work – a story that I am sure resonates with many of you. A further call nearer the day to advise on weather conditions and actual fishing location is always made. At the time the forecast showed a calm day with no rain; so, we would be off to Pevensey Bay after I picked him up from the railway station. Plan A in place!

For some reason, known only to the fish, the catch rate at the venue dropped off. A new venue was needed and scouring my contacts and Facebook pages resulted in Plan B. A couple of days before the big day saw a change in the weather forecast, it was now going to be very windy and very

wet. I called Darren to let him know but, being a big brave boy, he wanted to continue. Another new venue was now required to give us some shelter if possible – Plan C.

What are we likely to catch? What bait and rigs will we need? All this has to be planned, sorted and packed. This had to be re-evaluated and changed several times but eventually rods and reels were prepared and packed, plus extras. You do not want a client to lose fishing time owing to damage to any kit that you have supplied.

I collected Darren from the station a little later than originally planned owing to him ignoring his alarm calls! The weather was now looking grim so my final decision was made to fish locally in Hastings where we would target anything that swims. Plan D – I knew we would get there eventually!

ON THE BEACH

A short drive to the beach saw us park up, unload and lump the kit onto the shingle where I showed Darren how to set up and cast. I had him send out a few practice casts using a simple overhead thump and was happy that he was clearing the large crashing waves and putting baits out where he was in with a chance of fish.

We set up two rods, one with a 2-hook clipped down with lugworm, the other with a pulley Pennell using fish baits. I find these two rigs provide a good introduction for new anglers as they can be used with different baits and catch a variety of fish.

Back on the beach both Darren and I were wet, windswept, but catching fish. Several whiting and rockling were brought to the shingle and although these are not the greatest fish to be catching it did allow Darren to see what a bite looks like and how to unhook fish. He was also getting to grips with baiting up different rigs and baits.

In spite of the appalling weather, this session was a great introduction to beach fishing as we covered many of the basics required to get out there on your own.

At the end of our session we packed up the kit and I dropped Darren off at the local railway station and I drove home, unpacked the kit and started to dry everything out. Any unused bait was frozen down for those days when bait is hard to get, and eventually I sat down for a well-earned cuppa.

When I take people out on a fishing trip, whether they are new to the sport or not, I put myself under pressure for them to catch and to ensure they leave at the end of the session with the knowledge, confidence and, hopefully, a desire to get back out on the beach.

What of Darren? Despite the wet, cold and four hour round trip on the train he is already planning to come back very soon. ■

KEEPING THE FAMILY SWEET!

PLAN YOUR GETAWAY WITH OUR TOP TIPS!

Charlotte Opperman from Aardvark McLeod shares her tips for planning fishing holidays that can be enjoyed by everyone - anglers and non-fishing family too

The Maldives can be an excellent location for fishing and the family too

The team at Sportfish, the UK's leading supplier of game and fly-fishing products, believe that a fishing holiday can be great fun for anglers and non-anglers alike, with plenty of locations around the world offering fun-filled holidays with the bonus of teaching the family to fish.

One of the Sportfish team's favourite locations for a family holiday is Atmosphere Kanafushi, a newly rebuilt resort nestled on the Lhaviyani Atoll in the Maldives.

"The Atmosphere Kanafushi Resort is the perfect family holiday for anglers and their non-fishing family too, giving the anglers the chance to catch some really cool fish while at the same time being able to spend quality time relaxing and enjoying the island with family," says the Sportfish team.

They added, "The potential for fishing at Kanifushi Island is huge and can be split into three distinct types. These are flats fly fishing, popper fishing primarily for giant trevally and blue water fishing." ■

My number one top tip is to manage expectations. There are a few properly luxurious fishing lodges, but most are simpler in style and furnishing, and are comfortable rather than luxurious. If everyone is aware of this in advance, then there won't be any nasty surprises on arrival.

Other things for the non-fisher to be aware of:

■ If you are heading to a fishing lodge that offers a beach and pool, it's likely that these will be less manicured than a full-on beach resort and won't be serviced like them either. A good book is a must as is the ability to spend the day without much company!

■ A fishing resort that welcomes non-fishers will likely always be geared towards fishermen, with anglers as the priority. That's not to say you can't have an enjoyable holiday as a non-fisher – you can, but you aren't the mainstay of the guest profile.

■ Mealtimes can be a little inflexible, especially lunch if fishermen take theirs and are out all day. You'll be fed well but you might not have much choice on time or variety.

■ As a non-fisher, if you can, do spend a day on the water – especially if in the tropics. It's the most astonishingly beautiful environment.

■ In my experience, once a fisherman gets near the water they can't wait to get out there. It might be wise to try and agree some boundaries beforehand!

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Talk to us about Three Kings in New Zealand and Sørøya (recommended by Anglers World Holidays angling consultant Kevin McKie)

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FIRST LOOK

Your update on the latest gear arriving in the tackle shops

VALLON SALTWATER REVIVALS SUNGLASSES

VALLON has formally launched the Saltwater Revivals unisex performance sunglasses, with frames made from 85 per cent recycled fishing nets fused into a durable and flexible nylon-6.

The Saltwater Revivals are equipped with exceptionally clear and polarised V52® optics. The grey-tinted lenses improve colour perception and are fully mirror coated to protect against strong sunlight, making them ideal for fishing. The sustainable frame is made from recycled fishing nets fused into a highly durable and resistant nylon polyamide. Additional features include anti-scratch, oil and water-repellent coating, and a rubber nose pad. They come protected in a functional case with a clip-on hook and belt straps.

- Made from 85 per cent recycled fishing nets
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- RRP: £110
- www.vallon.com

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The Yeti roadie cool box is tall enough to chill most bottles of wine or keep essentials fresh all day. Its made for the road and ready to go – The Roadie 24 Cool Box packs more while taking up less space. It's built tall to accommodate bottles and slim enough to squeeze behind the driver's or passenger's seat of a car. It's a proper road trip buddy.

It also comes in a wheeled verson; the Yeti 48 wheeled cool box is built for navigating tailgate crowds and taking lunches to go, and with the same cold-holding power you'd expect from a Tundra® Cooler. It's also made to last just as long – from the handle to its durable wheels, this thing is virtually indestructible. Comes in three different sizes: the 24, 48 and 60.

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BLUEBLUE EGUID 90F

The BlueBlue Eguid 90F is a floating lipless minnow that mimics injured baitfish and is designed to target challenging micro-bait patterns. Its gentle, subtle action, mimicking the movement of a weakened baitfish, generates rippling waves that entice even the fussiest eaters.

The lure is very easy to use; it will swim right under the surface even on an extremely slow retrieve. Keep your rod up for the first few meters of retrieval, and lower the rod when it gets closer to you. The BlueBlue Eguid 90F features a slender tail and a front hook positioned towards the bottom to enhance hooking success.

- RRP: £18.99
- www.veals.co.uk

SAKURA KAIYO POP 150

The Sakura Kaiyo Pop is a classic popper with a pure POP sound thanks to its deep concave mouth. Firm rod movement really brings the Sakura Kaiyo Pop to life and makes the distinctive pops it produces, leaving a string of bubbles behind. The long shape and egg-shaped cross-section make this lure easy to use, allowing you to enjoy its full potential in both 'popper' and 'walking the dog' action.

An extremely reinforced construction gives unrivalled strength, thanks to an above-average ABS hull thickness and specific internal construction using partitions. The result is a unique buoyancy which gives the Sakura Kaiyo Pop a vertical position when stopped, but above all makes it easier for predators to suck it in and improves its hold in the surface film, whatever your animations or the conditions encountered. The Sakura Kaiyo Pop 150 is perfect when you want to target tough overseas species as well as big bass in the UK.

- RRP: £14.99
- www.veals.co.uk

DAIWA 23 LEGALIS LT REEL

Daiwa have added to their range of reels with a cracking new fixed spool – in five different sizes. Modestly priced with a stark, modern appearance, they have abundance of design and engineering features. The LT body is light and tough and constructed from a carbon-based composite that is much lighter than conventional materials yet very durable. With a much greater strength to weight ratio, the reels are lighter and can be handled without fatigue over the course of a long day's fishing. The spool design features the Advanced Ballistic System or ABS. This technology utilises a reversed taper to pay out line in bigger loops reducing outgoing friction and improving casting distance. The oversize spool also holds more line and can exert more pressure on hooked gamefish. The Air Rotor and Air Bail are carbon composite designed lighter and stronger than conventional designs. Smoothness of operation is assured by six ball bearings and a roller bearing.

- Carbon Light Material Housing - LT Concept. It has a smaller and more compact frame, the LT family of reels utilise a small, lightweight frame with a larger DigiGear for the perfect combination of Light and Tough.
- ABS Spool (Advanced Ballistic System)
- Machined Aluminium Handle
- Air Rotor and Air Bail: The Air Rotor weighs up to 15 per cent less than ordinary rotor designs. Its unique shape reduces unnecessary weight while distributing stress more evenly throughout the rotor for maximum strength.
- DigiGear: is precision machined cut and polished. This offers maximum efficiency with a better transfer of energy and unmatched smoothness.
- 6 Bearing System (5BB+1RB)
- RRP: £89.99
- www.daiwasports.co.uk

XTRATUF APRES FISH SLIDERS

We've been testing out these for a while now and they are really excellent lightweight sliders. The foot bed textured grip and what feels like light sprung soles make them very comfortable to wear and they fit very snugly on the foot. Designed to provide comfort and safety after a long day in XTRATUF boots, the Après Fish is a one-piece, lightweight slider made completely of BIO LITE, a low-compression, high-performance EVA foam that delivers superior impact absorption and support. The Après Fish is non-marking and has an SRC rated slip-resistant outsole, gripping the deck or floor's surface for sure footing.

Bio-Lite has been granted a Green Leaf certificate by Intertek, an accredited independent third-party testing facility, verifying that this product will properly biodegrade in bioreactor landfills. Landfill bio-degradation validated utilising the ISO 15985 test method, these sliders offer a lighter footprint for your feet and the planet.

- RRP: £45
- www.xtratuf.co.uk

WORDS BY LIAM GUNN

HITTING HOME

Specimen angler **Liam Gunn** has no qualms in recommending Seadra's Short Shank Wide Gape Aberdeen hooks

I consider myself to primarily be a specimen angler. No matter what species I might be targeting, I am always hell-bent on attaining a new personal best. To effectively do this, there are a number of considerations that would are important. Selecting the correct rod and reel combination would be one key consideration.

Mainline choice, and cherry-picking the correct bait are also pertinent. However – nothing is more important than the pointy end of your gear! If you don't have a sharp, strong and reliable hook on the business end, you are destined for failure. For the last 18 months or so, I have been extensively testing Seadra's take on an Aberdeen pattern, the high-quality carbon steel-forged 'Short Shank Wide Gape' hooks. I am a real stickler for a super-proud hook point – I always have been. The Seadra 'SSWG' fit the bill for me perfectly. Due to their innovative shape, and extra-wide gape, I am no longer concerned with a hook potentially being masked within the bait. The additional wideness has proved to be very effective, and I very seldom miss a bite with these hooks; they hit home and stay there!

The hook points are razor sharp straight out of the packet, needing no sharpening prior to use. When rock fishing, it is commonplace to be scraping hooks off the rocky faces, reefs and other obstacles so the need for a hook that doesn't blunt down quickly is of paramount importance.

The SSWG need very little sharpening during sessions, keeping a nice and very lethal point. These hooks are also incredibly durable and would be perfect for a range of species including rays, cod, conger, shark species and specimen silver bars!

At just £3.99 a packet they are also great value and come highly recommended by someone who has been using them extensively and sets the bar high for his hook of choice! ■

FEATURES

- Ultra-sticky razor like point
- Wide gape and short shank combined
- Tempered for up to 2.5 x strength compared to other patterns
- High carbon steel
- Neat eye shape and size
- Tested all over the UK on multiple species
- Available in sizes: 1/0, 2/0, 3/0, 4/0, 5/0, 6/0, 8/0
- 8/0 size fits the popular Gemini Solo Bait Clip
- Suitable for larger fish
- Pack size 10

- RRP £3.99

WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY SEA ANGLER

KEEP YOUR COOL

David Mitchell takes a look at Yeti's new Hopper Backpack Cooler

If you don't already, can I suggest you start using slush ice? Whether it's to keep your bait frozen, or your catch fresh, the appliance of this little piece of science must be right up there in the list of 'most useful tips' for sea anglers.

It's also so stupidly simple: simply mix ice (preferably crushed) with sea water in roughly equal parts. The magic happens because the salt depresses the freezing point of water before it turns to ice. Saltwater can actually get to -21°C before if freezes. What that means for us is super-cooled saltwater slush that is perfect for keeping bait, and your prize catch, in near perfect condition – colder than ice but not frozen. It's used by commercial fishing boats to keep their catches as fresh as possible.

So far, so cool. However, ultimately you need some way of transporting your super-chilled seafood about, and while slush ice chills to perfection it's too heavy to carry around.

Which leads me to why I have been rather impressed by Yeti 's Hopper Soft Backpack Cooler. The backpack design with padded straps allows you to carry your cool bag with comfort on your back, leaving both hands free to navigate those rocky coastal paths that lead to your favourite mark, but where taking a hard, ice-laden, cool box would be unthinkable. The larger version (the M20) is promoted as being able to take up to 36 standard 12oz cans. While that's useful to know, it roughly translates for anglers as being big enough for more bait than the average couple of anglers would reasonably need for a day's, perhaps even two day's, fishing – including cool blocks or some ice. Alternatively, both anglers could comfortably take home two chilled 45cm bass, including some ice.

FEATURES

The opening of the Hopper is sealed by a magnetic strip which not only provides an airtight lock, helping to keep the contents chilled, but also provides a leakproof shield preventing any fishy spillages. No one wants to start the day's fishing off with a back saturated in peeler crab juice, do they? The bag also has a leakproof liner and the foam closed-cell insulation does a fantastic job at keeping the contents chilled, or frozen. So much so that I am always confident that any leftover bait will still be in near-as-damn-it prime condition and any catch still firm, fresh and glassy-eyed.

There is plenty of attention to detail in the design and I appreciated the hitch points to which water bottles, tools and other accessories can be clipped for more hands-free options. The range comes in three standard colours plus two limited edition colours. The Yeti Backpack coolers are quality products. This is obvious from both the performance and the build quality. However, they do come with a price tag to match. The question is whether to buy cheap and know the item won't last and will need to be replaced, or spend more on a quality product like this which will last. In the case of these, you may even consider the money you'll save in the long run with sun, or heat, damaged bait not being wasted, and the prime fish you'll enjoy that hasn't turned to mush after a day sitting in the sun in a (we've all done it!). In both cases I'd say the cost of one of these backpacks, over the course of its lifetime, will end up being money well spent.

- **M20 - £325**
- **M12 - £275**
- **uk.yeti.com**

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Don't miss our range of essential guides to sea angling. Whatever type of fishing you enjoy, each guide is packed with everything you need to know

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Everything you need to know to catch more fish
The ultimate manual for beginners to experts
Tackle | Rigs | Tips | Technique | Bait | Species

Master the tackle, tactics, techniques and rigs needed to catch all your favourite species while fishing afloat

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HOW YOU CAN CATCH
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25
SPECIES
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Sea Angler's lure fishing expert, Henry Gilbey, guides you through all you need to know to catch more fish on lures

Top tips from a range of experts, covering all fishing methods, on how to catch the UK's most popular sea species

SHOP.KELSEY.CO.UK/GUIDES

OR CALL 01959 543 747 AND QUOTE SAG721

HTO NEBULA LIGHT BOAT JIGGING ROD

Anyone unfortunate enough to have a personality type which is predisposed to addictive behaviour would be well advised to steer clear of this funny little boat rod. At just six feet long this one-piece micro jigging rod looks like a bit of fun but nothing to be taken too seriously as a piece of kit to fish afloat with. Essentially, it's an LRF boat rod, rated to fish lures up to 40g, for a bit of fun with mackerel, wrasse and the whole myriad of micro-fish that LRF specialists and species hunters get inappropriately hot under the collar about – isn't it? Well, yes – and it does that job finely. The first sign that you may be developing a habit could be, like me, when you find yourself with the rod bent double and a four-and-a-half pound bass stripping line off the reel. At this point you are well and truly hooked and hopelessly in the clutches of the buzz this little rod gives you, looking for your next fix of adrenalin-fuelled action.

They say you never forget your first time and the first time I tried this rod out turned into one of those days I'll never forget: I lost count at 12 bass in under an hour as the dopamine and adrenalin took control of my normal brain function. Drop after drop the HTO jigs I was using were hit by another fish; every head shake and zigzagging run in the shallow water off the north Kent coast was amplified by the ultra-light rod for added heart-pounding intensity. Even the smallest schoolies and a surprise mackerel put a sweet bend in the rod that put a smile on my face every time.

Needless to say, I reached for the rod first on the subsequent occasions I went out and, while I didn't manage the soaring highs of my first experience, I did keep catching, as did my eight-year-old daughter who was almost as thrilled as I was at how much fun it was.

George Cunningham, from Tronixpro, which owns the HTO brand, and who suggested I might like to give the rod a go, had been using the rod off the Sussex coast catching black bream on small jigs over the famous Kingmere Reef. I was very disappointed to not get the chance to give this a go myself at the time but will certainly be getting my fix this summer with as many species caught on the rod as possible. It cries out for targeting wrasse, pollack and other predators over inshore reefs and wrecks. I have been using metal jibs but will be branching out this year to experiment with soft plastics. I'm keen to try using the rod to bounce imitation worms over sandbanks and experience a plaice or flounder on such a light and responsive rod.

My rod was paired with a HTO Nebula 2000 reel loaded with fine braid. This well-balanced set-up will get you the best out of any mini or micro species while still having the backbone to keep a decent pollack from getting its head down and diving into the safety of the nearest kelp jungle.

The only problem I encountered was the tendency for the slack mainline on the drop of the rod to loop over the tip of the rod before the light jigs had had the chance to flutter down through the water column. I was terrified of missing this and snapping the tip off when yet another bass bit the lure. This is because you are jigging vertically with very light lures. Slowing the jigging action right down soon fixed that and resulted in a better action in the lure anyway. Problem solved.

Like I say, this little rod is bags of fun and guaranteed to put a smile on your face. So much so that you may develop a nasty little habit of taking it out whenever you go fishing – you have been warned! ■

RRP: £169.99
Tronixfishing.co.uk

! CUSTOMER WARNING
THIS PRODUCT IS ADDICTIVE!

Artwork by Andy Steer

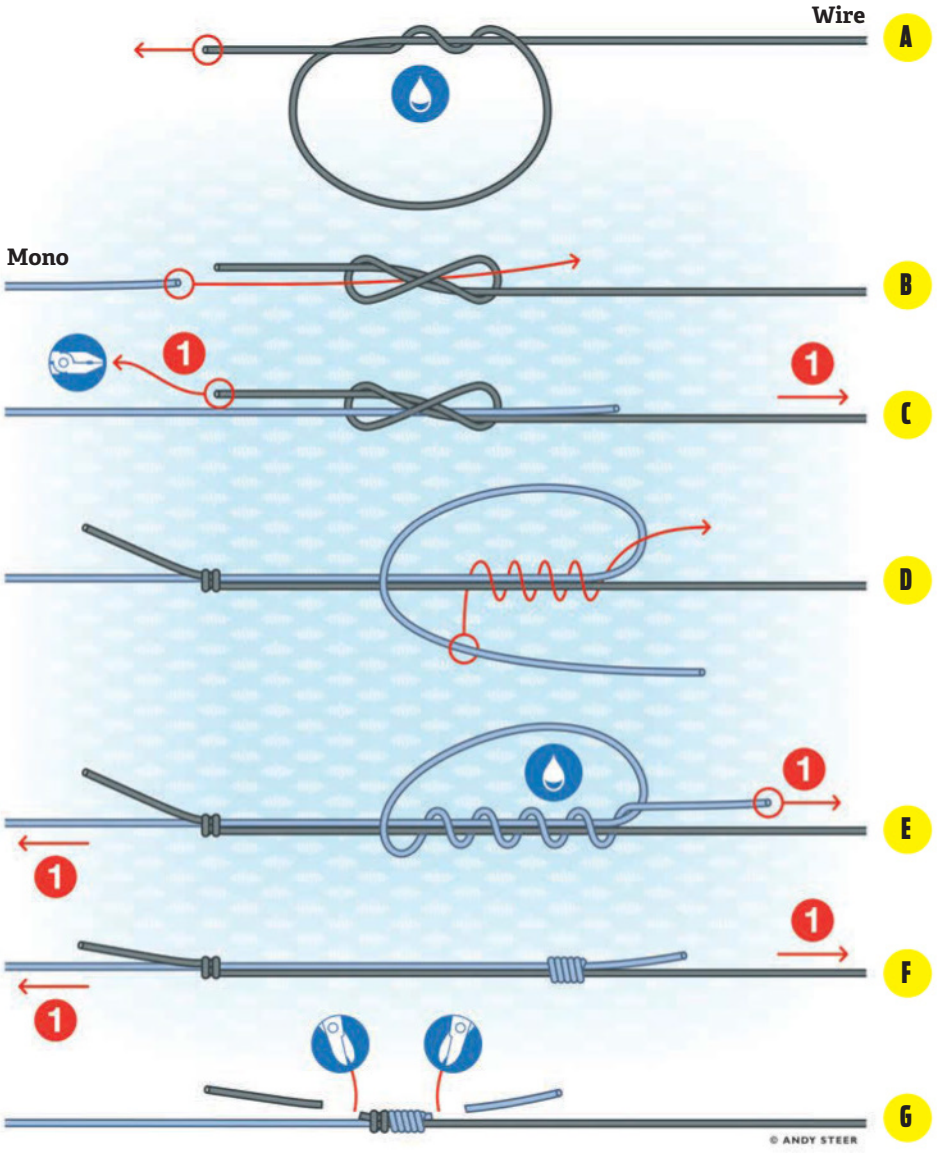
Check out the step-by-step video at: youtu.be/OLx3yhd-MGI

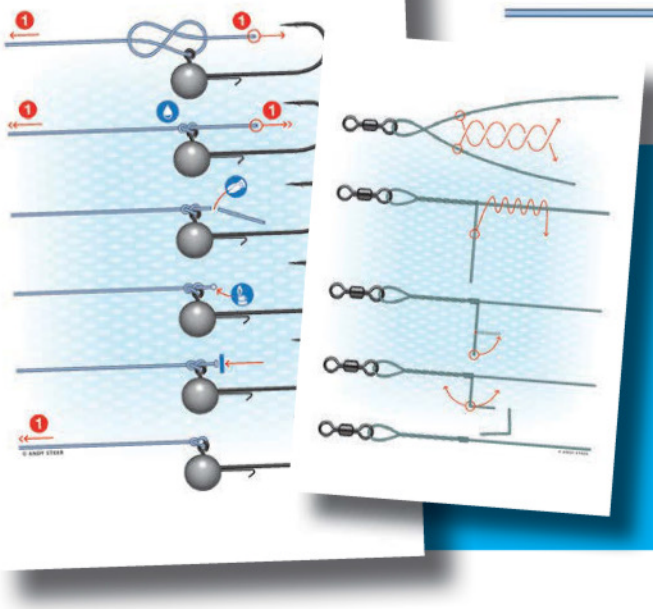
WIRE LEADER KNOT - MONO

If you are looking for an easy-to-tie knot for heavy-duty fishing, without the need for any additional or specialist tools, then the wire leader knot creates a super-reliable connection from a monofilament or fluorocarbon leader to a wire leader without the need for crimp sleeves or a crimping tool. Here's exactly how to tie it.

Step-by-step

A. Create a double overhand knot in the wire trace before lubricating it and tightening to form a figure of eight knot.
B. Pass the mono or fluoro line through both loops of the figure of eight.
C. Pull tightly on both ends of the wire, using pliers if you have them, until the wire tightens around the mono or fluoro.
D. Tie a uni knot in the mono using five turns and securing it to the wire, as shown.
E. Lubricate the uni knot and pull tight.
F. Pull from either end of the wire and mono until both knots butt up to each other snuggly forming a secure connection.
G. Finally, trim off the tag ends of both lines leaving you with a neat, compact knot.





MISSED AN ISSUE?
SEE PAGE 71 FOR OUR BACK ISSUES

Sidewinder™

"FISH ON !"

The 'Wakasagi'

Our new favourite colour for 2024. Shimmer skin purple belly finish, matched with a natural sandeel back pattern. Deadly when worked in clear waterover a sandy bottom.

NEW

RRP £9.99

The 'Bluey'

A firm favourite on the continent for the specimen hunter. We love this colour as a midwater lure. Works best in clearwater with lots of sunlight. Deadly for Bass.

Available in 4" - 10gm - 4pkt and 6" - 25gm - 3pkt

AVAILABLE FROM
ALL GOOD TACKLE SHOPS

sidewinderlures.co.uk

PRECISE DESIGN - XTREME ACTION!

PRECISION XTREME MAVRIK SALTWATER 110

NEW

Nothing has been left to chance and no compromises have been made in designing this new member of the Precision Xtreme series. A Bass anglers dream, with its ultra long casting design, erratic action and vivid colours.

- Semi-erratic/irregular action
- Slow sinking
- Available in 8 colours
- High-quality 3D finish
- MaxCast system
- Ultra long casting
- Heavy duty split rings
- VMC® 7548 Ti corrosion resistant treble hooks
- Size: 11cm
- Weight: 16g
- Swimming depth: 1.5-1.9m

Rapala®

WWW.RAPALA.COM

Words and photography by JOE WALKER

BUYING WADERS

CHEAP & CHEERFUL OR BUILT TO LAST?

Joe Walker wades into the debate on whether to buy cheap and replace or spend big and look for long-lasting performance waders, such as Orvis' Pro range

I pretty much live and die in waders. As a saltwater fly angler they enable me to close the gap on the fish I'm targeting, whilst allowing me to stand for hours on end in waist-deep water without the fear of resulting hypothermia – wet wading has its place during the finer summers, but it's a rare thing for the water to be that balmy (and that's not even addressing the issue of chafing!). My waders are therefore an absolutely essential piece of kit, but they take quite a beating too. Saltwater, sand, rocks, barnacles, fishing on my knees – it's undeniably punishing on fabrics, seams and water-resistance.

OPINION SPLIT

For saltwater fly and lure anglers, waders are often a major and carefully considered purchase. There are two schools of thought amongst the real die-hard users – buy cheap and replace, or invest heavily and look for a longer lifespan. It's a finely balanced argument and no matter how many posts you read online on the topic it always ends up being 50/50 in the split of opinions.

So if the financial case is a balanced one, that brings us back to comfort, features and convenience to sway decisions. Over the last 20 years, I've tried waders in the low and medium-price ranges from the likes of Shimano, Airflo, Snowbee and Vision. After a succession of fairly quick failures resulting in soggy legs I decided to invest heavily and go to the premium end of the spectrum. 18 months ago I purchased a pair of Orvis' Pro range zipped waders.

As the range name suggests, the Pro range of equipment is designed to be able to withstand the extreme demands placed upon it by professional fishing guides, whose livelihoods depend on them being on the water day in, day out. It's the most extreme regime possible, and Orvis have clearly spent considerable time consulting with guides to optimise both the material and the design.

The range of sizes is good, both in terms of girth and (importantly) leg-length. That meant I could find a pair that wasn't too gappy and enabled me to kneel and crouch comfortably without restriction or injury! The gusseted crotch certainly gives plenty of movement for clambering over obstacles. A snug fitting belt on waders is essential as a safety feature to limit water ingression if you take a sudden swamping. Often it's only a flimsy elastic affair on waders, but I'm pleased to say the belt on the Pro is tough, wide and features a robust clip. It's hefty enough to comfortably support a belt-mounted multitool

and 'third hand' rod holder, not sagging or stretching even when my rod is sitting in the holder. In short, the cut and fit is excellent, and I couldn't find anything to complain about.

These waders are 'stocking foot', meaning you wear separate lace-up boots over the top of the neoprene socks at the bottom. Those neoprene socks are 'anatomically correct', so they're shaped for a more natural and comfortable fit inside those boots, making them more comfortable to wear when walking long distances or with the pressure of deeper water on your feet. The seams are low profile and have stood up well with no signs of lifting or peeling after 18 months of hard use.

ZIPPED

I also opted to go the whole-hog and get the zipped version. If you've never worn zipped waders before, it's a revelation. I switched to zipped about 10 years ago, and now I couldn't contemplate not having that version. For anyone worried about the integrity of zips, I've never had one fail or leak, and the hefty YKK Aquaguard zip on the Orvis Pro is as good as it gets. In fact, being the klutz that I am, I managed to accidentally zip my shirt into it one day last season – the zip was so well engineered it destroyed my shirt and still stayed watertight. Of course, you don't have to have the zip – they are available without too.

The breathable, waterproof fabric that Orvis uses in these waders is appreciably beefier than anything else I've tried. It's a four layer cordura upper, with an even heftier five layers on the legs, and that's really noticeable. They're not markedly heavier in weight, and the material is comfortably supple, but what's really evident is the extra resistance to punctures. Pin-prick holes are the bane of the wader-wearers life, and my fishing often means pushing through brambles and gorse, kneeling on shell-grit (as well as fish pulling the hook-points of flies into the fabric). The knees, shins and backside are normally the first areas to suffer pin-prick leaks, but 18 months in, the Orvis Pro has so far withstood everything I've thrown at it. Speaking of knees, my favourite feature in these waders is a generous, removable ortholite foam pad built-in over each knee, making kneeling on hard ground to cast at spooky mullet, or clambering over the gunnels of a boat in the shallows a far less painful experience. A simple addition, but something I really appreciate. The only downside to all this extra protection is that you do build up a bit more body heat on a long yomp to your fishing grounds. Breathable they may be, but when the sun's out, you'll find yourself wishing you were wearing fewer layers. Still – if you have a good sling-pack, that's easily rectified, and of course the flip side is true when the wind comes up and the temperature drops. As the shoulder strap buckles have an 'opposing' fit, you also have the option of rolling down the chest section and clipping it round the waist to release a bit more heat, or just unzip the top half.

The Pro waders have an abundance of water-resistant zipped pockets and docking stations for tools, which I find extremely useful. Almost all my previous waders were pretty limited in this respect, meaning I felt I had no option but to wear a vest to keep much of my gear like leaders, flies and line cutters in. The extra pockets and docking stations on the Pros have meant I can comfortably store and access everything I need immediately to hand. I do still use a sling-pack to keep my lunch and bulkier gadgets in, but shedding the need for a vest too has meant a greater feeling of unrestricted movement and freedom, not to mention being cooler on warm days. The two main chest pockets also have a cosy fleece lining inside, which is welcome on early and late season days when wet hands start to feel the cold biting.

TOP OF THE RANGE

Of course, the longevity of any kit used in saltwater is enhanced by careful rinsing after use, and waders of any ilk are no different. Storing them by hanging them up is important too, and certainly never pack them away wet.

Overall, it's difficult to find fault with the quality, design and construction of Orvis' Pro zipped waders. Comfortable, well thought-out and certainly durable, they're a serious option for serious anglers. However, I have to warn you, they do come at an undeniably steep price tag, as with anything at the top of the range in quality. If you're in the 50 per cent of anglers who think 'buy cheap and replace' is a false economy, then from a performance perspective I highly recommend them. ■

- **RRP: £649**
- **www.orvis.co.uk**

Words and photography by CHRIS KENNEDY

SIMPLY THE BEST

Thirteen years after being first launched, **Chris Kennedy** explains why he believes the Daiwa Millionaire 7HT MAG ST is still the best beach multiplier on the market

So many anglers have switched to fixed spool reels in recent years. The advances in technology have been profound, with Daiwa leading the way with their Saltiga and magnetic technology. However, multipliers have always been the traditional choice of UK anglers on the beach, particularly when it comes to out-an-out distance casting.

The evolution of casting multipliers seems to have ground to a halt, particularly when comparing them to the fixed spool evolution. But was there anything to improve upon? The UK distance casting scene, and the dedicated manufacturers involved, had seen the development of some astounding reels capable of world-record casting and the finest of tuning. The boundaries have truly been pushed to perhaps their maximum. Daiwa, Penn, Abu Garcia, and more recently Akios, have products in this very competitive space. I am neglecting to mention some others because I don't think they come anywhere near the brands above.

Abu, when they made their reels in Sweden, were perhaps the most desirable multiplier on the market. For many years, almost everyone who could afford one had a 6500 model. Their reputation suffered somewhat when they were bought by Garcia and manufacturing locations were switched and some of the components were changed. They were surely excellent reels in their day and evolved from purely centrifugal braking to the magnetic slider on the latter Hi-Speed Mag and TSR models.

Penn, with their 525 Mag and Super Mags, made excellent reels in the USA, but they switched manufacturing and they lost their shine a little bit in this period too. My 525 Mag 2s were a little disappointing to me, whether in look, feel or controlling them in the cast; I just wasn't happy with them versus the older models and quickly moved them on. They have since released a Mag 3 and 4, which seem largely cosmetic changes. They may represent value to a lot of anglers, costing less than the Abu or the Daiwa equivalents.

Akios do make good multiplier reels for long casting, they are almost indistinguishable from the old Abu Garcia 6500s with that solid metallic construction and beautiful finish. Like the Abus, they just look and feel like a work of art. But I see no evidence that they have surpassed Abu in performance; they only offered an alternative that is very similar. More recent models have some nice touches, like coatings, which somewhat change the aesthetic. I just don't think the reels will be in the same category in terms of performance as my preferred choice.

PEAK PERFORMANCE

Back in 2010, Daiwa launched a successor to the popular Millionaire 7HT Mag. Two previous iterations of the 7HT had proven a reliable, controllable, distance-casting multiplier for those using 0.35 mono (15lb breaking strain) that performed time and again. Their latest offering, the 7HT Mag Super Tuned, in its red and grey aesthetic, is the best distance-casting multiplier that I have used to date. They are incredibly smooth, light, compact and have a solid enough design. Where I think the Mag ST really excels is in its magnetic control braking mechanism. The one thing all of us despise on the beach is getting bird nests and breaking off because we can't control the speed of the spool on our reels, and it's absolutely imperative to fine-tune a reel to make sure this is perfect every time for our casting style. I am yet to discover a better multiplier in terms of braking and spool control. Daiwa just wins, hands down. It is the most expensive on the market in this space, but you get what you pay for.

While it may have been over 13 years since the 7HT Mag ST hit the shops, after iconic angler Paul Kerry's testing, it is still number one. If you disagree, what would your choice be instead? Technology has possibly reached its summit here. I'll be interested to see if anything new is in the pipeline from Daiwa, or their competitors. Until then, the 7HT Mag ST stills reigns supreme as a masterful piece of engineering. ■

FEATURES

- Improved Magnofuge - intelligent magnetic braking
- Ultra-precision machined spool
- 9 bearings, including 8 CRBBs
- Infinite anti-reverse
- Rigid one-piece dura-aluminium frame
- Carbon swept handle
- Daiwa five-point support system and low-frame crossbars
- High-grade brass drive gear
- Stainless steel pinion gear
- Smooth and powerful star drag
- Gear ratio: 5.8:1
- Line capacity 15lb: 300 metres
- RRP: £595
- www.daiwasports.co.uk

SPRING SPECIAL

BOAT STORE

With boat anglers looking forward to a summer on the water here's Sea Angler's guide to some of the newest and most exciting boating gear and gadgets for boat fishing

NOCO GENIUS ON BOARD BATTERY CHARGER

If marine batteries are not charged or well-maintained, the potential impact on the safety of the vessel, and those on board, could be life threatening. The American based company NOCO has developed a range of battery chargers that have been designed specifically for marine applications: the NOCO Genius GEN range.

These compact multi-bank on board battery chargers independently charge and control each battery bank on board. With selectable charging modes the chargers are suitable for a range of battery technologies including AGM and lithium batteries. Rated to IP68 and 100 per cent waterproof, they are built for extreme conditions and can withstand hours underwater.

Using high-frequency switch-mode technology, the NOCO chargers efficiently convert A/C power into D/C power for battery charging. The improved start voltage sensor allows the Genius GEN charger to detect and charge dead batteries as low as 1 volt. An additional feature of the NOCO Genius GEN chargers is the force mode which allows users to detect and charge batteries that are below 1 volt, all the way down to zero volts. The Genius GEN range automatically detects sulfation/acid stratification and will repair and reverse the damage extending the battery's life.

The best feature of this range of battery chargers from NOCO is that they are completely automatic.

- From £100
- Available from https://no.co

MERCURY SINGLE ENGINE JOYSTICK STEERING

Mercury Marine has introduced Joystick Steering for Single-Engine Vessels, compatible for use with the Mercury Verado® family of V8, V10 and V12 outboard engines from 250 - 600hp. Enhanced by electric steering, Joystick Steering now delivers command and control to boats with only a single outboard engine for propulsion

Joystick Steering for single-engine vessels eliminates the need for boaters to use both hands to throttle, shift and steer during low-speed manoeuvres. The precision control that the steering system provides will give users greater confidence in situations where manoeuvring a single outboard can be more challenging than a multi-engine configuration.

This joystick has a sleek design without any physical buttons. It allows for proportional forward and reverse movement and the twist function provides precise, intuitive steering.

When joystick steering is integrated with a compatible multifunction display (MFD), incorporating GPS and Mercury SmartCraft Connect, it offers autopilot features. There are two autopilot features: heading and route, so you can set up a route on the MFD by dropping waypoints. When the Heading function is activated, you can make 1 or 10-degree adjustments to your heading on the MFD, or 10-degree adjustments by twisting the joystick, so you can use it to really fine-tune your direction of travel.

- Price on application
- www.mercurymarine.com

ROKK WIRELESS – COVE LED 10W WATERPROOF PHONE CHARGING POCKET 12/24V

This handy piece of tech safely houses and wirelessly charges phones at the same time. Boaters can keep phones in a safe and stylish RGB LED Lit pocket on board, tucked away, charged and ready to go.

The IPX6 waterproof 12/24V waterproof wireless charging range enables wireless charging without the need for phone charging cables. This wireless charge system was created specifically for use on board, with the unique 10W technology housed in an IPX6, fully encapsulated and sealed unit.

Cove 10W safely houses and wirelessly charges the phone at the same time. The design reduces the installation depth by storing and wirelessly charging the phone sideways. Perfect for integration into consoles, bulkheads, seating, cabinetry and more. Simply slide the phone into the pocket and instantly start wirelessly charging.

The internal grippy mat stops the phone sliding around and its rubberised front lip with an easy access thumb bevel acts as a safety barrier, making sure the phone always stays safe. Cove's front panel features passive air vents, encouraging cool air into the pocket and through rubber cooling channels, keeping the phone cooler for longer. This gives the most efficient outdoor wireless charge possible.

The product features waterproof LED RGB lights, allowing it to link in with any RGB control system to seamlessly match the lighting style around the boat. Perfect to match speakers, deck and underwater lighting. The Cove LED 10W lighting is fully dimmable as well so light levels can be set to suit the mood. Input Voltage Range: 10-30V DC

- RRP: £154.80
- www.boatworld.co.uk and other marine stockists

SUZUKI DF250 KURO

The new DF250 'KURO' series comes in a unique and eye-catching matt black finish, which is reminiscent of the paint finishes and wraps used on super cars; and that gives a hint as to what this new outboard is designed for – performance.

The word 'KURO' means "deep black" in Japanese and thus represents the new paint finish and matching decals. In addition to the new look, the new DF250AUNX has a number of technical features that set it apart from a standard Suzuki DF250A.

Its 4-litre, 24 valve V6 engine has been upgraded with new electronic mapping that increases the rev range from 5,700rpm to 6,000rpm. Match this with the new cowling that has re-worked air intake louvres to provide better air supply as well as cooling and you have got a power unit that revs and picks up speed quickly.

In addition, the lower unit has also been re-designed in a similar way to those found on racing outboards, to improve cruising performance and prevent cavitation. The skeg also has a specially designed 'left/right asymmetry' with a curve in it to assist in low-speed manoeuvring. Finally, the upper clamp brackets have been improved with stiffer bushings to increase stability at speed.

The DF250AUNX also benefits from all the usual Suzuki technologies such as Suzuki Precision Control, the drive-by-wire throttle system, auto-trim, keyless start and, of course, Lean Burn Fuel Control.

- Starting prices from £23,000
- Available from Suzuki stockists

COMPETITION

WORTH £140

WIN A PAIR OF XTRATUF DECK BOOTS

We reviewed these boots in 2023 and more and more anglers are now discovering the versatility and functionality of these non-slip ankle deck boots. Now one lucky Sea Angler reader has the chance to win a pair worth £140

Designed, tested and proven by generations of fishermen in the oceans of Alaska, XTRATUF have been making fishing boots for over 50 years. The all-new Ankle Deck Boot Sport is built from a new high-performance foam ProLite™ which is ultra-durable and slip-resistant, all while being a one-piece outsole. This men's deck boot delivers the comfort and agility of trainers with long cushion life and high energy return, all while offering the same traction benefits of a full rubber boot. Whatever the conditions, the patented chevron sole will keep you sure footed and dry on the deck of any boat, beach or rock mark.

FEATURES:

- **100 per cent waterproof**
- **Lightweight ProLite™ high-performance foam**
- **XpressCool™ lining keeps your feet cool**
- **High traction, non-marking chevron outsole**
- **Pull-tab for easy on and off**
- **Easy to clean**
- **Estimated boot height 15cm**
- **Estimated max circumference 32cm**
- **Estimated weight 1.3kg**

Don't miss out on the chance to win this fantastic prize. Simply enter free online at...

www.seaangler.co.uk/win

Terms and conditions: Entries close at 23:59 on 23/05/2024 and the winners will be drawn on 24/05/2024. The winner will be notified within 28 days of the close of entries. The draw is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Entry is free. Open to residents of the UK aged over 18. Employees of Kelsey Media and their family members are not eligible to win. Only one entry permitted per person, no bulk entries will be accepted. There is no cash alternative and the prize is not transferable. If any prize or product is lost or damaged during the course of delivery to the recipient, Kelsey Media will provide reasonable assistance in seeking to resolve the problem. However, it will not always be possible to obtain replacements for lost or damaged goods, and in that event, no financial compensation would be payable by Kelsey Media or their affiliates. We reserve the right to cancel the competition, if circumstances change that are beyond our control. By entering you agree to be bound by all the rules and agree that your surname and country may be published if you win.

TENRYU®
SUPER MIX 270 EVO

A true classic from the prestigious Japanese brand Tenryu, the Super Mix 270 is one of the most popular rods for anglers who fish from the shore. Its length and progressive action make it possible to cast lures to phenomenal distances as well as landing big fish very easily. This has created a reputation for the rod with many anglers who use it for its casting distance, progressive action for playing fish and its versatility with a multitude of different lures and fishing techniques. The combination of distance and its weight range allows the angler to switch from light to heavy lures, be them surface, diving, metal or soft. It is the ideal tool for shore anglers who need to switch lures to suit the situation, all with one rod.

- Length : **2,7 m (9 ft)**
- Tip Length : **1,56 m (5 ft 1 in)**
- Casting Weight : **10-60 g**
- Line Rating : **10-25 lb**
- Rod Weight : **205 g**

Tél. : +(33) 2 97 31 27 89
www : catalog.ultimate-fishing.net
@ : infos@ultimate-fishing.net

Ultimate FISHING
ULTIMATE-FISHING.NET

Route de Bangor
56360 Le Palais
France

Interview by
TIM MACPHERSON

LIVING LEGENDS

Chris Clark is regarded as one of the world's best sea anglers. He's a former World Champion and has won 23 world medals. Following a near fatal accident in 2001 Chris devoted himself to supporting youngsters in the sport. In 2018 he received a British Citizen Award. He is also a long-standing contributor to Sea Angler

TM: You've been fishing for a long time – what got you hooked on fishing all those years ago?

CC: My fishing adventures first started at the age of six using a World War Two tank aerial as a rod trying to winkle out some wild brownies from the local brook. This set me out on a 70 year angling journey. I was ten when I sampled my first sea fishing sortie, a trip out from Falmouth on a charter boat; the first sea fish I caught was a humble pouting. While hooked on angling at a young age I did not start match fishing until after I got married in 1971.

TM: As a former World Champion angler, you have a long history in match angling. Which of the 23 world medals was the most satisfying?

CC: Without question the most rewarding and satisfying moment in my angling career was winning the bronze individual medal in France during October 2001, just six months after a devastating farming accident. Just a few days after returning with the England U16 from Porto Santo, where Tom Wells became the Individual World Champion and the team collected a silver medal, I got crushed in a machine at work after the safety system failed, leaving me in hospital for many weeks. This resulted in me having a metal replacement shoulder joint along with a metal rod going down towards my elbow; all four cruciate ligaments in my right knee were also snapped which could not be repaired. Only a few weeks prior to the Porto Santo event I had been selected for the England senior team for the World Senior event in France during October. Thanks to the selectors they left my space open, which certainly gave me the encouragement and goal to get myself fit again. Six months later, with my leg still strapped and little movement on my right shoulder, I fished the event and finished with the individual bronze medal and was the top UK angler, a memory that I shall never forget.

TM: What do you regard as your greatest achievement in angling?

CC: Despite winning 23 World medals, gold, silver and bronze as a senior individual; gold, silver and bronze as a senior team member and gold, silver and bronze as the manager of an England U16 team, what has given me most satisfaction is working with the England U16 squads during the past 30 years. Watching them slowly mature from U16 to U21 and then to the England senior level is something very special which words can't describe. Interestingly, the first youngster to become a World U16 Champion under my watch was Saul Page way back in the mid 1990s. Since then, Saul has gone on to become the backbone of the England senior shore team.

TM: You've been heavily involved in developing the Angling Trust Talent Pathway – where did this start and what progress in improving angling involvement do you think the Trust has made with this scheme over the last 10 years or so?

CC: Working with youngsters first started way back in the early nineties with the old NFSA running junior road shows which were held countrywide where I gave talks and slide shows trying to encourage youngsters to get into the competitive side of angling. This slowly progressed over the years into the Talent Pathway as organised by the Angling Trust nowadays, which is far more professional with qualified coaches now delivering some excellent work. As I take a backward step on the coaching front I hope the Talent Pathway continues to go from strength to strength helping youngsters achieve their dreams whether it be of a competitive nature or just enjoying the sport.

TM: What is the biggest change you've seen in match angling in recent years?

CC: Without question moving over to catch & release during the past 20 years is a huge step for forward for match angling and is one of the most positive changes I have seen in recent years.

TM: As an Angling Trust Ambassador what do you think are the most important challenges in sea angling the Trust should focus on in the coming years?

CC: Unfortunately sea angling is facing many challenges both from environmental groups and from overfishing by the commercial sector, especially where inshore waters are concerned. However, in my opinion the biggest challenge we face is the apathy within sea anglers, united we stand divided they will fall, pretty simple.

TM: You won a British Citizens Award in 2018 - what did winning this mean to you and to angling as a whole?

CC: Being honoured with a British Citizen Award for education in 2018 came as a complete surprise; I felt very humbled. The whole process, unknown to me, had been put in the place by the Rev Chris Colledge who lived in Bournemouth along with David Graham. I now understand that Chris College had been watching the various work I had been doing with youngsters both at a national and local level for many years hence he nominated me for the award.

As a matter of interest, during 2012 I ran with the Olympic torch through my local town of Lymington during a downpour and packed streets which was a tremendous experience, totally different to receiving the BCAe but something that I shall never forget. I still have the torch which I ran with.

"In my opinion the biggest challenge we face is the apathy within sea anglers, united we stand divided they will fall; it's pretty simple"

TM: It must have been physically hard to continue angling after your accident in 2001 – how did you adapt your angling techniques as a result of it.

CC: My accident certainly had a major impact on my angling ability with some major changes required if I was to continue at a reasonable level. Casting was the real issue as I could no longer punch my right arm upwards resulting in pendulum casting being out of the question. Instead it was a compromise; I learnt to cast by swivelling my body, distances achieved were shorter than my original pendulum casting style but were still more than adequate for the majority of beaches. However, I now choose my venues with care steering clear of the long-range venues.

TM: What advice would you give to young anglers coming into the sport?

CC: For any youngster coming in to the sport I always say enjoy what you are doing, do not over complicate your tackle; a fish is a very simple creature. But as soon as that fun element and enjoyment start to disappear it is time to move on to pastures new.

TM: What is the biggest overall challenge you see for angling in the future?

CC: Going forward sea angling has many challenges but none greater than getting more youngsters involved in the sport. The Talent Pathway is a good starting platform. More importantly, however, is having plenty of healthy, well organised

active clubs dotted around our coastline attracting new blood as the older generation slowly melt away.

TM: Name five of your favourite fish catching achievements?

CC: Becoming World Individual Champion in Ireland is something that I shall never forget, likewise winning the SAMF UK Masters twice is also pretty memorable but for me sitting on an isolated rock mark, or on the banks of a deserted river, is far better than any fishing achiement.

TM: What is your worst sea angling experience or trip?

CC: One of my worst fishing experiences was during the old Triple Crown event held in Ireland many moons ago. It started well winning my boat on the first day held out from Killybegs which was fished to a species point system. The second match was on the River Shannon where I held my own in difficult conditions, but the final session on Lock Arrow drifting for trout turned out to be a disaster. We started off in fairly calm conditions but as the wind slowly increased. I lost a decent brownie alongside the boat which had taken a Green Peter fly if I remember correctly, before things got very scary. The wind suddenly picked up to near gale force, our motor got swamped and we started taking on water and finished having to be rescued. Never again!

TM: What type of angling have you never tried but would like to?

CC: The only type of angling which I have not really done is big game fishing from a boat but to be honest, it is just not my thing. On the other hand, I have caught bronze whalers from the shore in Namibia which almost pull your arms out of their sockets. Give me a light rod and a hard fighting cob any-day.

TM: Have you fished overseas – if so what was your favourite or most memorable trip and why?

CC: Having fished from beaches in numerous countries there are two which really stand out for completely different reason. For pure action-packed sessions Iceland stands head and shoulders over most countries in my book. The fishing can be fantastic but on the downside it is a very expensive country. On the other hand, if I was to move to another country it would be to the fantastic unspoilt island of Sardinia: a great climate, some superb fishing with some of the friendliest folk one could ever hope to meet.

TM: If you could only fish one venue or target one fish species what would they be?

CC: I love float fishing, especially trotting a stick float on the Hampshire Avon on a hot summer's afternoon for chub, dace and roach. Likewise, I really enjoy using a pike float along the rocky Purbeck coastline hunting for a big bold ballan wrasse who never know when to throw in the towel. The solitude and scenery along both venues is fantastic.

TM: Which fellow angler do you admire and why?

CC: The late, great, Ian Golds. Not only was he a superb angler, extremely good friend and tackle inventor, but he was a thoroughly nice person who always had time for everyone.

TM: What is the one fishing thing you haven't achieved yet but would like to?

CC: As to the future, I look forward to being a member of the England team for the World Masters Shore Championships being held in Cyprus during October. Maybe we can add to that team medal tally.

WHAT'S ON

Your at-a-glance match events planner ● = Penn Sea League

MAY

● **5:** WCAC Spring open 3.30-7.30pm Minehead to Blue Anchor. Book in sign on and presentation at the Royal British Legion, Watchet TA23 0AR. For more info contact Steve, West Coast Angling Centre, Watchet: 01984 634807.

● **5:** Westlands Angling Centre Spring Charity Open in aid of Yorkshire Air Ambulance. Fishing 10am-4pm. Biggest fish competition, 42cm minimum size limit, entry fee £15, £5 to YAA. Boundaries: Sewerby steps to Paull lighthouse. No smoothhound to be weighed in. Contact Westlands Angling Centre: 01964 541192 after 15th April.

● **11:** Excelsior Sea Fishing Club Open, Marine Beach 11.15am-3.15pm. Contact Jay Cityzen: 07999 416559.

● **11-12:** Holt Sea Anglers Bass Festival, Bacton. For booking and more information contact Mike Watts: 07858 758669 or Tony Thomas: 07780 793141 thomasamt@btinternet.com

● **12:** Newport & District Open St Brides. Contact Tony Hart: 07530 983667.

● **12**: Scottish Federation of Sea Anglers Open, Elliot Beach. For more details and to book a peg please contact Chris Horn: 07872 94480.

● **18:** Southern League round 5 of 12 & open, Milford 8-1am, pegged, measure & return, £15 match entry, £5 pools, £10 pair, team of five free, 2022 League entry £25, booking ends one hour before start. Book only. Contact Darren: 07919 073232, Mike: 07983 579596, Ian: 07736 004714, or Ant: 07775 691916. Nick: southernleagueandopens@gmail.com

● **19:** East Region Shore League, Ogmore & Porthcawl. Contact Steve Chadwick: 07777 689289.

● **19:** LSAC summer league 2024, Individual and Teams of 5 qualifiers and Opens, Cefn Siden, 1-5pm pegged, SAMF length conversion table. Contact Chris Isaac: 07831308344.

● **19:** Commercial SAC Spring Biggest Fish Rover Open, 10-4pm. Scales down 5pm prompt at the Spread Eagle, Withernsea. Boundaries: Bridlington North beach to the Humber bridge. Sign in on the day at Stardust Café, Withernsea, opposite the Post Office from 7:30-8:30. Entry is £10. Contact John: 07595 484619, johnv42@btinternet.com or Dave Hart: 07791 900003.

● **24**: Fishon Tackle Round 5, Eastney 8-12pm. Signing in 6pm-7pm from Eastney toilets. Pegged measure and release anything over 18cm, no bait restrictions, £10 members, £12.50 non-members, back up venue for all matches is Eastney. Contact Ashley Dowdeswell: 02394 007684 or 07807 639872.

● **25:** Lincolnshire Spring Open, Sandilands, 15.00-20.00. Meet 13.00-14.00 Sandilands Golf Course, Pre-book only. Contact Mark: 07500 112515.

● **25:** Samalite Chesil League round 4 of 10, Bexington, 6-11pm. Measure and release to the new SAMF chart for all species. Fish may be kept for the table or for bait but must be marked by snipping the tail after it has been recorded. Pre-book only. Contact Dave Lane: 07977 132951 lanedc@talktalk.net

● **25-26:** Excelsior Sea Fishing Club Open, Preston 2-day Event. Contact Jay Cityzen: 07999 416559.

● **26:** Reel Fun Fishing: League and Opens, Littleton-upon-Severn Series: 5 matches (best 4 from 5). Meet and draw 6.45am, fishing 8am-12pm, £30 League entry (pre-pay at Reel Fun), 100 per cent pay-out top eight anglers, £20 entry per match (100 per pay pay-out), Zone prizes, heaviest fish and winner's bonus. All pegged & zoned (3 zones), Maximum 60 pegs available, 1 rod 3 hooks, 18cm size limit on all species: catch, measure, witness, return and convert to weight (heaviest bag), no bait restrictions. Pre-book only. Contact Reel Fun Fishing: 01275 848652.

JUNE

● **2:** Gwent SAC Open Cardiff Foreshore. Contact Ivor Smith: 07854 829590.

● **2:** Yorkshire Summer League 2024, teams of 5 qualifiers, East Halton, 1pm-5pm. Meet 12:00; no Maddies (all other baits allowed); measure to weight conversion; no minimum hook sizes; 40 pegs; pre book only. Contact Brett: 07834 559265.

● **6:** Fishon Tackle, round 6, Kicker/Stokes Bay, 8-12pm. Signing in 6pm-7pm from Gilkicker car park, Military Road; pegged measure and release anything over 18cm; no bait restrictions; £10 member, £12.50 non-members; back up venue for all matches is Eastney. Contact Ashley Dowdeswell: 02394 007684 or 07807 639872.

● **7-8:** Channel Anglers SAC 2023, Minehead Festival, Friday 7th June. Fishing 5.30-9.30pm; Saturday 8th June, fishing 6-10pm – two hours either side of high water each day; 90 pegs available; 6 zones of 15 anglers: A- zone Porlock Wier pegs 1- 15; B- zone Bossington pegs 16- 30; C - zone Bossington pegs 31- 45; D - zone Golf Links pegs 46- 60; E - zone Golf Links pegs 61- 75; F - zone Blue Anchor pegs 76- 90. Entry £80 all including bait supplied; 1 rod 3 hooks; catch, measure, witness, return and convert to weight. Peg draws for both days and bait collection each day T.B.A. Contact main event organiser James Madsen: 07900 651071.

PENN PLUS

● **9:** LSAC Summer League 2024, Individual and Teams of 5 qualifiers and Opens, N Channel 4-8pm; pegged; SAMF length conversion table. Contact Chris Isaac: 07831 308344.

● **9:** Scottish Federation of Sea Anglers Open, Riverside Drive. For more details and to book a peg please contact Chris Horn: 07872 94480.

● **15:** Mersey Cheshire Sea Anglers Community Club, Holyhead Breakwater. Fishing the inside; 1-6pm; 90 peg limit; £20 match fee. Contact John Kerr via Facebook for details or email: johnkerr68@icloud.com

● **16:** Anglesey Match Anglers, Holyhead. Back of the breakwater; 80 peg limit; £20 entry. Fishing 1pm-6pm; no size limit; measure everything except mackerel, herring, launce, sea trout. Rays measured nose to tail; no white rag. Contact Dave Cave: 07493 149584.

● **16:** Holt SAC West Norfolk Challenge Round 2 Kings Lynn, contact Mike: 07858 758669, Tony: 07780 793141 thomasamt@btinternet.com

● **22:** Southern League round 6 of 12 & Open. Cogden, 6-11pm; pegged; measure & return; £15 match entry; £5 pools; £10 pair; team of five free; 2022 League entry £25; booking ends one hour before start; book only. Contact Darren: 07919 073232, Mike: 07983 579596, Ian: 07736 004714 or Ant: 07775 691916. Nick: southernleagueandopens@gmail.com

PENN PLUS

● **22:** Reel Fun Fishing: League and opens, Littleton-upon-Severn Series: 5 matches (best 4 from 5), meet and draw 5.30pm; fishing 6.45pm-10.45pm; £30 League entry (pre-pay at Reel Fun); 100 per cent pay-out top 8 anglers; £20 Entry per match (100 per cent pay-out); Zone prizes; heaviest fish and winner's bonus. All pegged and zoned (3 zones); maximum 60 pegs available; 1 rod 3 hooks; 18cm size limit on all species; catch, measure, witness, return and convert to weight (heaviest bag); no bait restrictions. Pre-book only. Contact Reel Fun Fishing: 01275 848652.

● **23:** Foords Open.Fishing 10-3pm; weigh in for 4pm at Foords Hotel, Filey. Heaviest fish match; £12 entry, £2 juniors. Contact Scott Blowman: 07934 049126.

● **23:** Irish Federation of Sea Anglers, Delis 1-5pm. Check-in at the car park. Entry: senior €15, junior €10 contact; Chris O'Sullivan: 08515 32770.

● **29:** Excelsior Sea Fishing Club Open, Stannah, 4-8pm. Contact Jay Cityzen: 07999 416559.

● **29:** Samalite Chesil League round 5 of 10, Abbotsbury. 7pm-12am; measure and release to the new SAMF chart for all species. Fish may be kept for the table or for bait but must be marked by snipping the tail after it has been recorded. Pre-book only. Contact Dave Lane: 07977 132951, Dave Lane: lanedc@talktalk.net

● **30:** Angling Cymru Sea Anglers East Region, Cardiff Foreshore. Contact Ivor Smith: 07854 829590.

● **30:** Reel Fun Fishing: League and Opens, Littleton-upon-Severn Series: 5 matches (best 4 from 5). Meet and draw 11.45pm; fishing 1pm - 5pm; £30 League entry pre-pay at Reel Fun; 100 per cent pay-out top 8 anglers; £20 Entry per match (100 per cent pay-out); Zone prizes; heaviest fish and winner's bonus. All pegged and zoned (3 zones); maximum 60 pegs available; 1 rod 3 hooks; 18cm size limit on all species; catch, measure, witness, return and convert to weight (heaviest bag); no bait restrictions; pre-book only. Contact Reel Fun Fishing: 01275 848652.

● **30:** Yorkshire Summer League 2024, teams of 5 qualifiers, East Halton. 11:15-3:15pm; meet 10am; no maddies – all other baits allowed; measure to weight conversion; no minimum hook sizes; 40 pegs; pre book only. 07834 559265.

2024 PENN SEA LEAGUE

ANGLING TRUST

Congratulations to the 228 anglers who have scored Penn Sea League points since January 1 – here's the leader board for anglers who have scored eight points or more up to and including 31st March 2024. If you wish to be eligible to win the monthly Penn Spinfisher reel prize, and be in with a chance of fishing the Grand Final in 2025, then you need to register via the Angling Trust website.

1	Saul Page	Deal	54
2	Gareth Griffiths	Bar Furness	32
	Richard Yates	St Mag Bay	32
	Scott Moore	Hartlepool	32
5	D Shorthouse	Kettering	31
6	Martyn Wilding	Scarborough	29
	Shaun Moore	Cardiff	29
8	Mark Taylor	Grimsby	28
9	Wayne Leason	Hull	27
10	Louie Smith	Deal	26
11	Ged Stevens	Barr in Furness	25
	Sam Collier	Deal	25
13	Ben Bradstock	Honiton	24
14	Allan Hughes	Holyhead	22
15	Darren Browne	South Shields	20
	George Smith	Grimsby	20
	Mel McIntyre		20
18	Chris Guthrie	Cramlington	19
	Dave Wade	Hove	19
	Matt White	Lancaster	19
21	Ben Laws	Whitby	18
	Keith Smith	Blyth	18
	Paul Kemp	Hull	18
	Troy Francis	Killarney	18
25	D Richardson		17
	Gordon Blyth	Patrington	17
	Lloyd Summers	Caerphilly	17
	Tommy Tate	Sunderland	17
29	A Chester	Hedon	16
	Ben Price	Holyhead	16
	Darren Bond	Lancing	16
	Matty Sabiston	Grimsby	16
	M Lazenby		16
34	Dan Mogridge	Portsmouth	15
	Paul Smith	South Shields	15
	Ray Shepherd	Hedon	15
37	Alan Price	Rhyl	14
	Frank Potter		14
	George Horner	Scarborough	14
	John Johnson	Minehead	14
	Les Mason	Kendal	14
42	Alan Bound		13
	ADugdale	Peel	13
	Gary Medler	Martham	13
	Malcolm Stote	Lymington	13
	Peter Row	Fareham	13
	Rob McDonald	Sprotborough	13
48	Ben Arnold	Brighton	12
	Craig Maddock	Caerphilly	12
	Jason Carter	Doddington	12
	Joey Brady		12
	Nick Westgarth	Stockton on Tees	12
	Rob Prince		12
	Wayne Davison	Thornton	12
54	Alan Brigham	South Shields	11
	A Pemberton	Fareham	11
	Dave Cave	Holyhead	11
	Jeff Fisk	Bournemouth	11
58	Bobby Drew		10
	Chris Stringer	Whitley Bay	10
	Joe Croxon	Canterbury	10
	Joe Macklin	Hull	10
	Kevin Warner	Horncastle	10
	Mike Coates	Hull	10
64	Craig Buy	Colchester	9
	Daniel Crump	Barry	9
	Joe Smith	Deal	9
	Steve Williams	Jarrow	9
68	Adam Slack	Brixham	8
	Brett Bartram	Barton	8
	Neil Cutler	Gateshead	8
	Rob Collins	Saundersfoot	8
	Roy Tapper	Cardiff	8
	Simon Drayton	Gainsborough	8
	Steven Trish	Bootle	8

TOP SCORERS – MARCH 2024

This month's winner is Scott Moore from Hartlepool, with 20 points. Scott takes the monthly prize with his two-day win at the European Open. Darren Browne from South Shields also scored 20 points with his flattie bash win but is yet to register and is therefore ineligible for the prize.

1	Darren Browne	South Shields	20
	Scott Moore	Hartlepool	20
3	Mark Taylor	Grimsby	19
	Martyn Wilding	Scarborough	19
5	Ben Laws	Whitby	18
	D Shorthouse	Kettering	18
7	DRichardson		17
	Gordon Blyth	Partington	17
9	A Chester	Hedon	16
	Matty Sabiston	Grimsby	16
	Wayne Leason	Hull	16
12	Gareth Griffiths	Barr in Furness	15
	Ray Shepherd	Hedon	15
14	Les Mason	Kendal	14
15	Gary Medler	Marsham	13
	Rob McDonald	Sprotborough	13
17	Ged Stevens	Barr in Furness	12
	Jason Carter	Doddington	12
	Rob Prince		12
20	Alan Brigham	South Shields	11
21	Lloyd Summers	Caerphilly	10
22	Daniel Crump	Barry	9
23	Roy Tapper	Cardiff	8
24	Damien Close	Burnham on Sea	7
	Darren Bond	Lancing	7
	D Newland	Ryde	7
	Darren Smith	Deal	7
	Joe Smith	Deal	7

HOW IT WORKS

■ With £10,000 in tackle prizes the points, based on entries, are awarded to the top three plus section winners and captors of the largest fish caught in each designated Penn match. Penn also awards a prize of a Spinfisher fixed-spool reel to the angler scoring the most points in matches shown in each issue. If there is a tie, the winner will be the angler whose total is from the greatest number of results and is then chosen on merit by the Angling Trust. An angler can win only one reel during the year. To win a prize you must be registered with the Penn Sea League – supply your name, address, phone and email. Send fixtures, results and league registration by email to Ian Bowell: ian.bowell@icloud.com

NEXT ISSUE

- **SILVER BULLETS** targeting black bream in the Channel
- **MULLET IN THE SURF** light tackle tactics for golden grey action
- **TRIGGERFISH ESSENTIALS** how to catch these feisty summer visitors
- **PATERNOSTERS** new rig-building ideas to help you catch more
- **GORGEOUS GILTHEADS** how to fish a top south coast summer bream venue
- **ON TEST** Savage Gear's new Gravity Shallow hard lures

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20-40lb 8ft 4" £364.99
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Tip Tornado Graphex Ultralite ST 13' / 50-125g	Smooth	£585.00	£509.99
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Eliminator T1200 Salvador Bustos Edition 14' 4" / 125-225g	Heavy ground	£815.00	£714.99
Eliminator T1000 14' 10" / 125-200g	Heavy ground	£795.00	£694.99
Eliminator T900-SGT 14' 4" / 125-200g	Heavy - Mixed	£715.00	£624.99
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They Are Back!

As you would expect from Daiwa, a new rod that will take some beating at this price. They look and fish like a rod twice the price! UK built with a choice of 2 lengths 13ft 6'' cast 4-7oz and 14ft 2'' cast 4-8oz both with great tips that won't bounce around in the tide but as most Daiwa have exceptional bite registration and cast great. Movable reel seats and K style guides (braid friendly) and hybrid design suitable for multi or fix spool reel.

13ft 6'' only £229.99 14ft 2'' only £239.99

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These are nothing like the older Tidals but a completely new designed surf rod that knocks spots off anything else close to this price! Both 4-8oz. Use for multi or fi x spool movable reel seats, durable braid friendly saltwater resistant guides

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ZIPLEX IS BACK AT GERRYS CALL FOR UPDATE ON LATEST STOCK!

PENN OVERSEAS II BOAT RODS ALL 7FT

Penn Overseas II Boat Rods 4pc rods all 7ft is the perfect travel for any faraway destinations. The stainless steel Fuji guides. The stiff action rods allows direct feel and power to fight monster fish., 24Ton carbon allows super slim dia blanks without compromising the strength.

Includes Cordura travel tube tube length 78 cm (31")
sizes 12-20lb, 20-30lb, 30-50lb
Any one norm £99.99 **Gerry's £85.99**

PENN OKUMA SOLTERRA LEVER DRAG LEVEL WIND

At last something we have been asked for over and over, a quality reel that has lever drag and a level wind, so allows perfect line lay, especially handy when using braid.
Stainless Steel Main Gear, Pinion Gears & Shafts

- Carbonite Drag System with Cal's Universal Drag Grease
- Double Dog Silent Anti-Reverse on All Models
- Stainless Steel Body Armor Reduces Frame Flex (20-50W Models)
- Thrust Bearings Help Reduce Handle Turning Resistance
- max drag 33lbs/15kg

Backed by a 5-year Okuma warranty, yes 5 Years!

Sizes: LX 10 £179.99, LX 15 £179.99 and LX 20 £219.99

PENN REGIMENT III TRAVEL BOATS 5PC RODS

The next step up with crossover wrapping carbon giving the rods fantastic strength, and super slim dia 10 Ton carbon, aluminium reel seats

Cordura travel tube length 54 cm (21")
sizes 12-20lb, 20-30lb, 30-50lb
Any one norm £173.99
Gerry's £139.99

NEW SUNSET SURF RODS

These replace the so successful range of 2022 Sunsets, that gave as these do spectacular value for money and slim blanks with lightness just choose your money range you can't go wrong!

Sunset Skandal Marea Power Surf 14ft 4-7oz
norm £87.99 **Gerry's £69.99**
Easy to use progressive action which is idea to use fishing over clean to slightly mixed ground. It is fitted with a power tip making it suitable to use in stronger tides. also available in 14ft 9" 4-8oz
norm £99.99 **Gerry's £79.99**

Sunset Hypra Surf 420 3pc HYBRID Surf 14ft
4-8oz norm £137.99 **Gerry's £97.99**
All Hypra in Carbon "Technifibre" – blank Thin and powerful - 3 sections - Tubular reel seat - Anti-tangle "K Frame" SiC rings - Hybrid tip for optimal bite detection **Sunset Hypra Surf 420 3pc Power Surf 14ft 4-9oz** norm £139.99 **Gerry's £99.99** power tip, superb rock and rough ground continental also available as a **15ft 3 piece same spec 4-8oz** norm £139.99 **Gerry's £99.99**

Sunset Seven Seas Ultra Power Surf 14ft 420 3pc 4-9oz norm £199.99 **Gerry's £169.99**
A powerful continental rod which is ideal for general all-round fishing on clean to mixed ground, ideal for faster tides and targeting larger species such as rays and hounds

Sunset Forza Power Surf 14ft 420 3pc 4-9oz norm £384.99 **Gerry's £289.99**
Gerry,s think this is a brilliant rod, versatile as the tip will see Flounders at distance but cope with 9oz casting weights, powerful slim rod but so lite in the hand.
also available as a hybrid tip same money!

SOME OF THE BEST SELLING SURF REELS, BUT WE HAVE MANY MORE!

SHIMANO BULLSEYE 9120
NORM £449.99 **GERRY'S £399.99**

- Probably one of the best f/s you can buy!
- HAGANE Gearing
- Weight 540g
- Aluminum cold forged spool
- 5 ball bearings
- Slow Oscillation
- Perfect line lay

AKIOS AIRLOOPS BLACK EDITION
R8 **£124.99** R10 **£134.99**

- Super Slow Oscillation for Exceptional Casting Performance
- High Strength Composite Body & Rotor
- 8+1 Stainless Steel Shielded Bearings
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NORM £99.99 **GERRY'S £79.99**

Taking the world by storm
9+1 b/bearings
Long cast spool and spare
4.4-1 ratio
Looks amazing!

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IPX5 Mag sealed, longcast ali spools 5+1 b/bearings, x wrap line for great casting

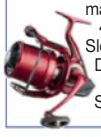
5500LC 285yds x 12lb mono
Norm £204.99 **Gerry's £169.00**
6500LC 350yds x 15lb mono
Norm £219.99 **Gerry's £179.00**
7500LC 480yds x 20lb mono
Norm £229.99 **Gerry's £195.00**

TRONIXPRO GUERILLA 6500 MONO MAG LEFT OR RIGHT HAND WIND
NORM £99.99 **GERRY'S £79.99**

Amazing value, a mag casting reel for this money? How? Mag control, floating spool, 275yds x 0.35lb mono

DAIWA 20 TOURNAMENT BASIA 45 SCW
NORM £749.99 **GERRY'S £599.99**

Probably one of the best f/s you can buy! Maybe the longest casting spool ever made. Magsealed, Zaion Body, 45mm LC Long Cast Spool, Slow Cross Wrap, QD Quick Drag, Aluminium Tough Digigear, Spare Spool Supplied.



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